KOYOHARU GOTOUGE

Hello! I'm Gotouge. I am truly thankful to everyone happy about the *Demon Slayer* anime as if it were their own good news! All the kind and congratulatory words, gifts and happiness massaged me and blew away my stiff shoulders and headaches. My nose is still running though. I'm sorry I can't reply individually or give you anything back. I'm blessed by much good fortune and the aid and encouragement of nice people helps a lot. I am always praying from the bottom of my heart for the health and happiness of people who are kind to me.

DEMON SLAYER:
KIMETSU NO YAIBA
VOLUME 12
Shonen Jump Edition

Story and Art by
KOYOHARU GOTOUGE

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12
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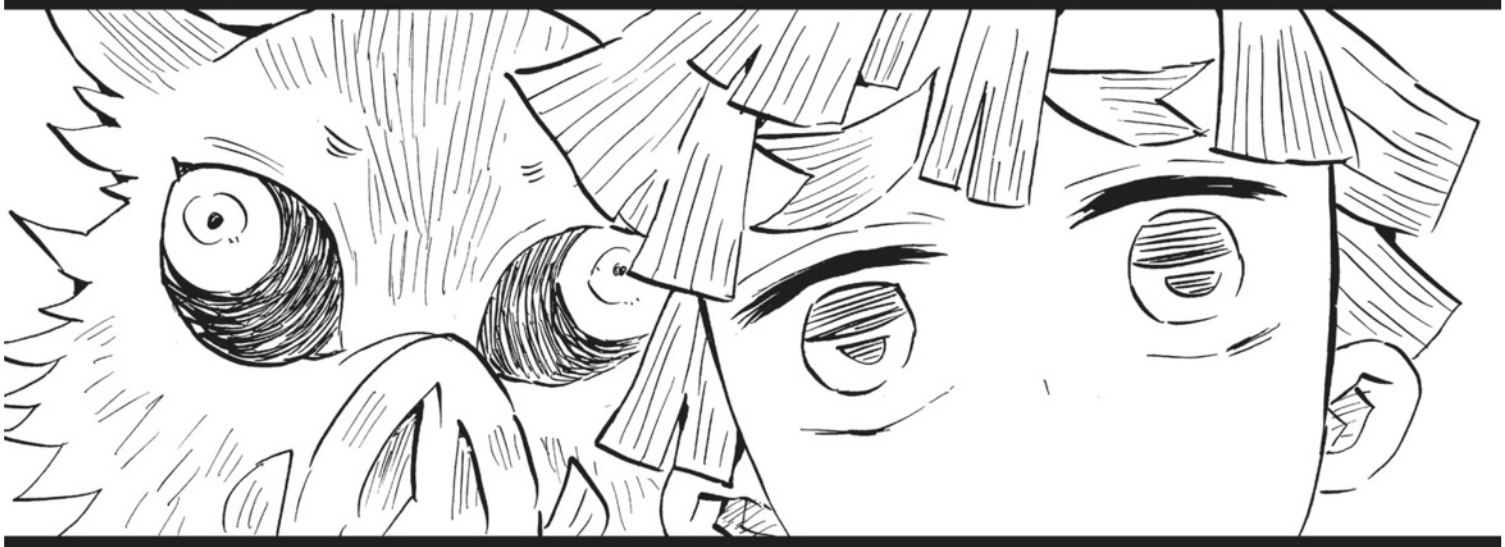
DEMON SLAYER

KIMETSU NO YAIBA

12

THE UPPER RANKS GATHER

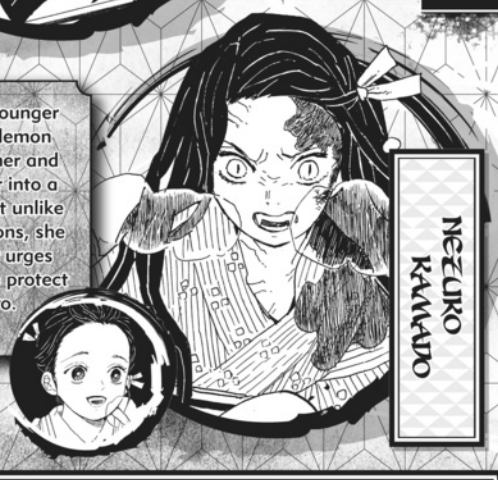


KOYOHARU GOTOUGE

CHARACTERS

TANJIRO KAMADO

A kind boy who saved his sister and now aims to avenge his family. He can smell the scent of demons and an opponent's weakness.



NEZUKO KAMADO

Tanjiro's younger sister. A demon attacked her and turned her into a demon. But unlike other demons, she fights her urges and tries to protect Tanjiro.

HAGANEZUKA

The swordsmith who made Tanjiro's katana. He has the soul of an artist, so he gets angry when a blade is treated poorly.

INOSUKE HASHIBIRA

He also went through Final Selection at the same time as Tanjiro. He wears the pelt of a wild boar and is very belligerent.

ZENITSU AGATSUMA

He went through Final Selection at the same time as Tanjiro. He's usually cowardly, but when he falls asleep his true power comes out.

MUZAN KIBUTSUJI

Kibutsuji turned Nezuko into a demon. He is Tanjiro's enemy and hides his nature in order to live among human beings.

KAGAYA UBUYASHIKI

The leader of the Demon Slayer Corps who seeks to defeat Muzan Kibutsuji. His body is weak, but he is very charismatic.

UPPER RANK 6 FROM OVER 100 YEARS AGO

The demon who turned Gyutaro and Daki—who were until recently the Upper Rank 6 demons—into demons.

AKAZA, UPPER RANK 3

Upper Rank 3. The demon who killed Kyojuro Rengoku, the Flame Hashira of the Demon Slayer Corps. He burns with desire for revenge against Tanjiro.

STORY

In Taisho-era Japan, young Tanjiro makes a living selling charcoal. One day, demons kill his family and turn his younger sister Nezuko into a demon. Tanjiro and Nezuko set out to find a way to return Nezuko to human form and defeat Kibutsuji, the demon who killed their family!

After joining the Demon Slayer Corps, Tanjiro meets Tamayo and Yushiro—demons who oppose Kibutsuji—who provide a clue to how Nezuko may be turned back into a human. On a new mission, Uzui the Sound Hashira, Tanjiro and others confront a brother-and-sister pair of demons who are Upper Rank 6. The sibling demons repeatedly get the better of them, but our heroes show indomitable perseverance and defeat the demons at great cost. Meanwhile, the first death of an upper-rank demon in over a hundred years has an impact on the remaining upper-rank demons.

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DEMON SLAYER
KIMETSU NO YAIBA

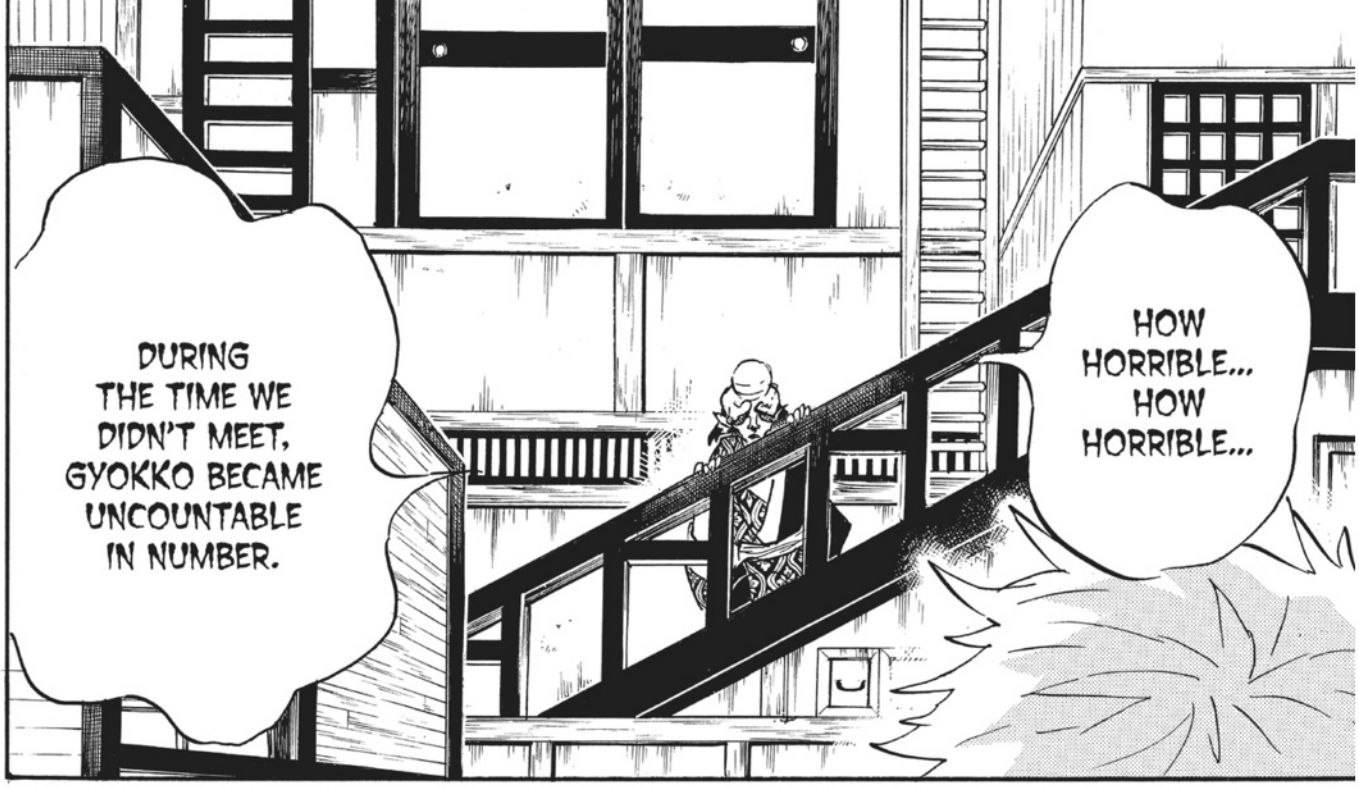
12

THE UPPER RANKS GATHER

CHAPTER 98: THE UPPER RANKS GATHER

JAPANESE
*UPPER 3

BWOOOO
OH MY! I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE WELL.
IT'S BEEN ABOUT 90 YEARS, HASN'T IT?
HEE!
IT IS...
...LORD AKAZA!
UPPER RANK 5
GYOKKO
MY CHEST WAS TIGHT FROM WORRYING.
HEE HEE!
KOFF KOFF
I'D BEGUN TO THINK YOU WERE DEFEATED.

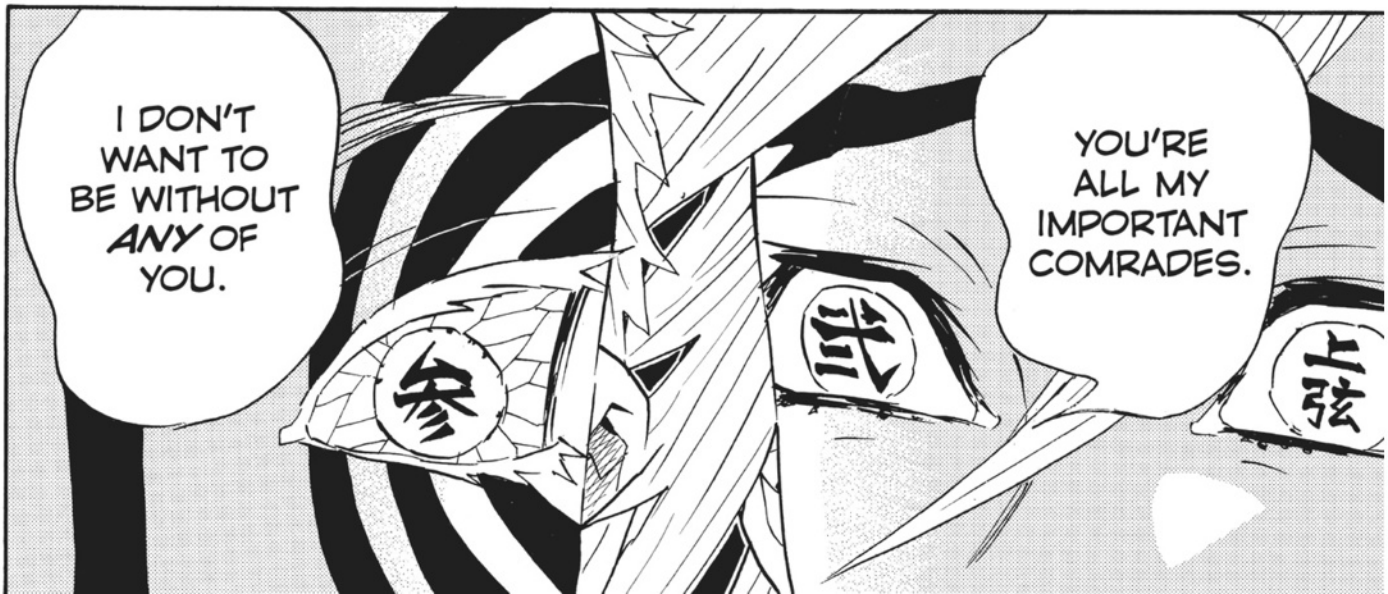

DURING THE TIME WE DIDN'T MEET, GYOKKO BECAME UNCOUNTABLE IN NUMBER.
HOW HORRIBLE... HOW HORRIBLE...

AN INDIVISIBLE NUMBER... A STRANGE, OMINOUS NUMBER...
AN ODD NUMBER!
HOW HORRIBLE... HOW HORRIBLE!
IT'S BEEN 113 YEARS SINCE THE LAST SUMMONS.
UPPER RANK 4
HANTENGU

...IS LORD MUZAN HERE?
BIWA WOMAN ...

HE HAS NOT YET ARRIVED.
THEN WHERE IS UPPER RANK 1?
SURELY HE HASN'T BEEN DEFEATED.
WAIT JUST A SECOND, LORD AKAZA...
OH MY, OH MY!
AREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT ME?

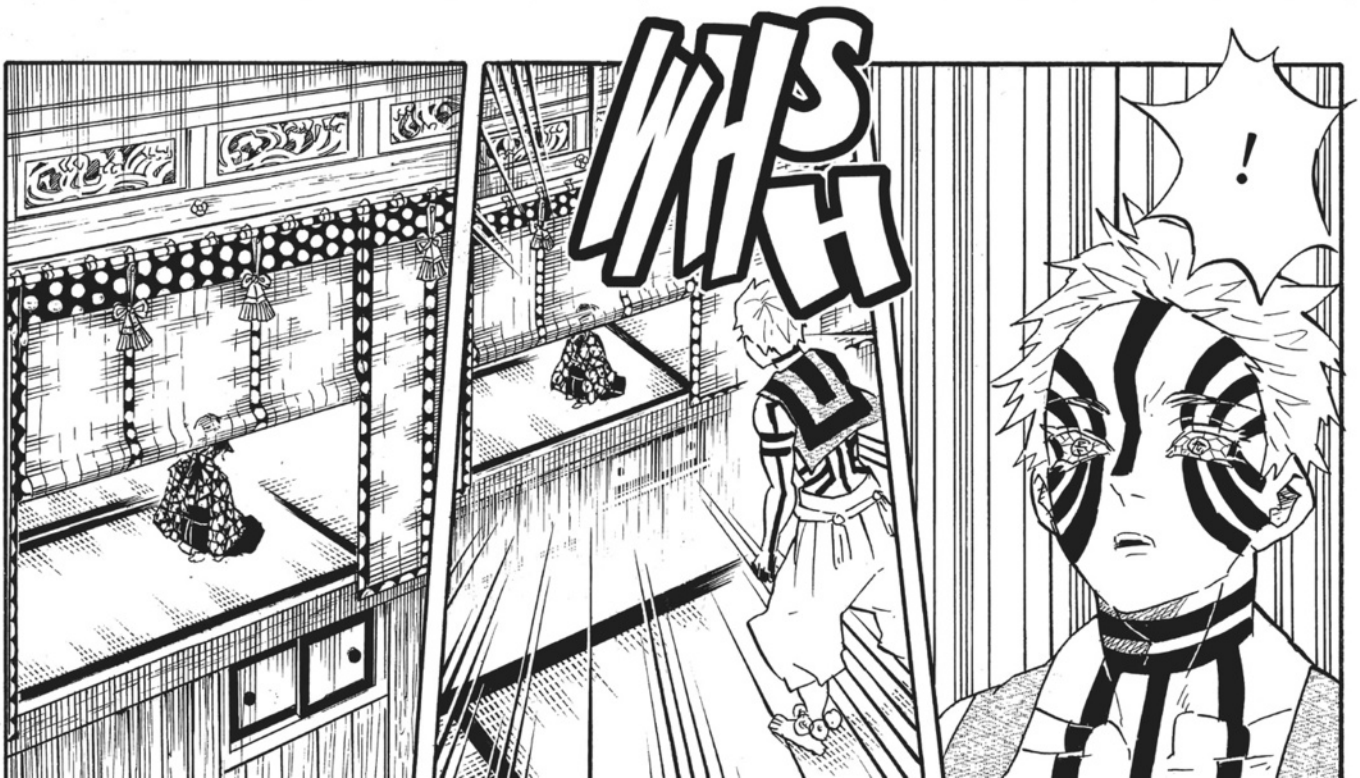
*DOMA'S EYES: UPPER 2



HELLO! IT'S BEEN A WHILE, GYOKKO!
LORD DOMA...!
HEE!
I PUT A WOMAN'S FRESHLY SEVERED HEAD IN THE VASE YOU GAVE ME AND USED IT TO DECORATE MY ROOM.
IS THAT A NEW VASE? VERY PRETTY!
UPPER RANK 2
DOMA
GET YOUR ARM OFF ME.
...BUT THAT'S ALL RIGHT TOO!
THAT WASN'T FOR A HEAD...
MOVE.
HMM ?
YOU MUST COME VISIT ME SOME-TIME!

THUNK
GWUHP
ARE YOU EVEN STRONGER THAN BEFORE, LORD AKAZA?
OHHH... NICE PUNCH!
YEEP!
WHOA!

HE'S BEEN OVER THERE THE WHOLE TIME.
UPPER RANK 1 WAS CALLED FIRST.


HHSH
!

I...
...AM RIGHT HERE.

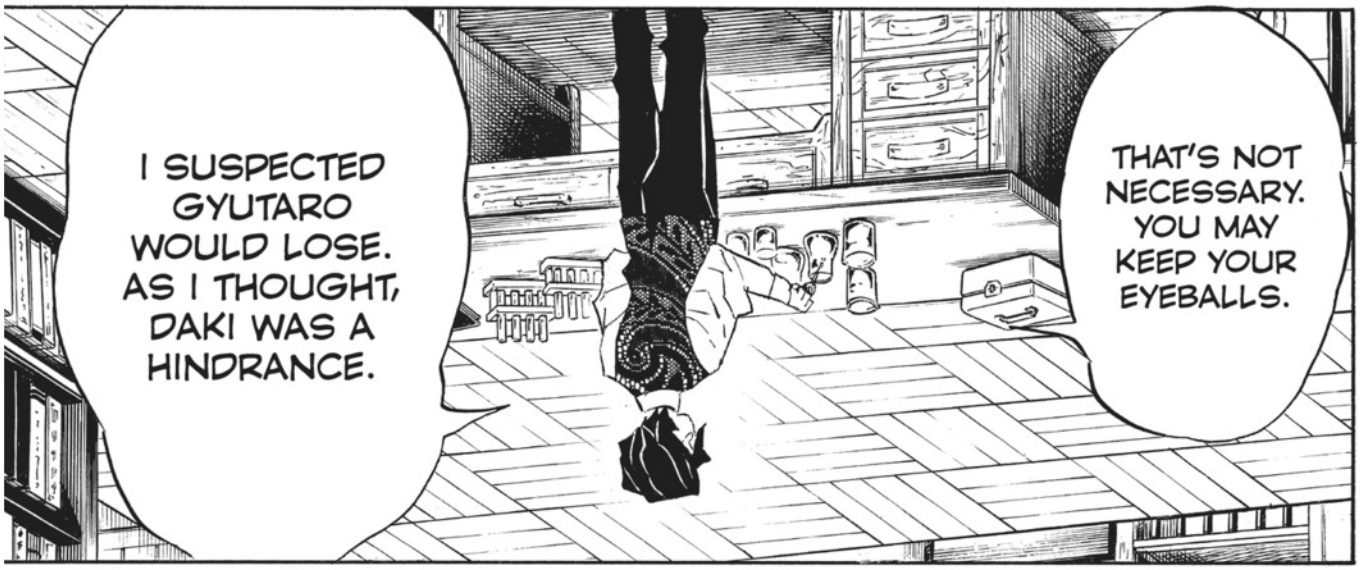
LORD MUZAN...
...HAS ARRIVED.
UPPER RANK 1
KOKUSHIBO

!!

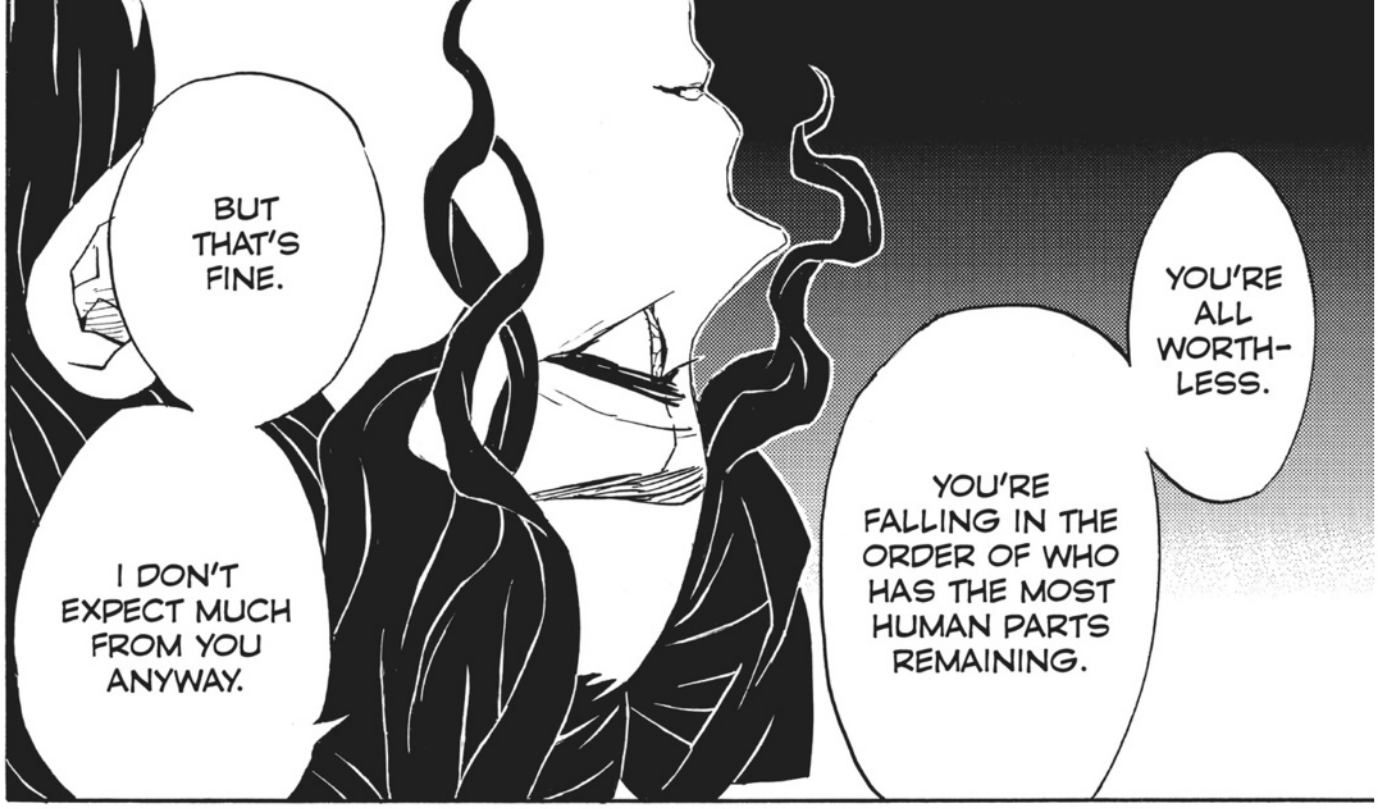
AIEEEE!

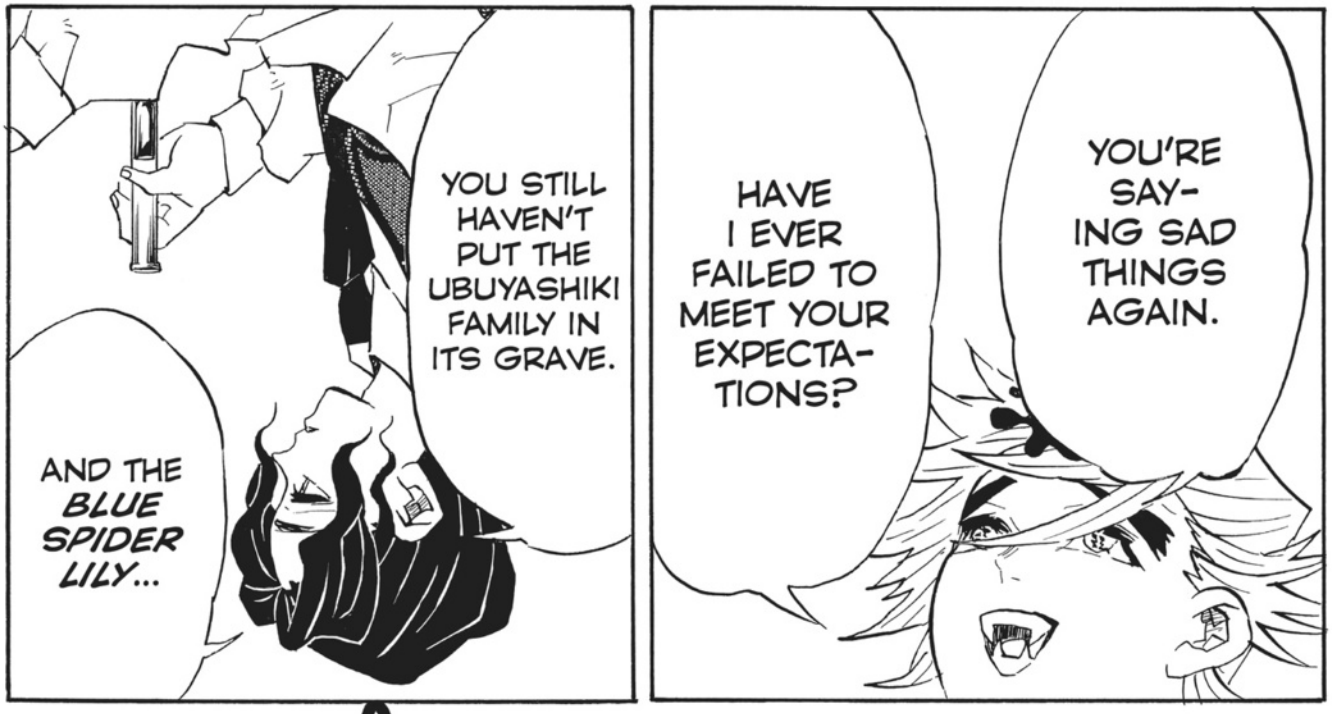
PLIP
GYUTARO IS DEAD.
THE UPPER RANKS OF THE KIZUKI ARE INCOMPLETE.

CAN THAT REALLY BE SO?
MY APOLO-GIES!
I BROUGHT GYUTARO IN, SO...
GRIN
...HOW SHALL I MAKE AMENDS? SHALL I GOUGE OUT AN EYEBALL OR...
YEAH
YEAH
YEAH

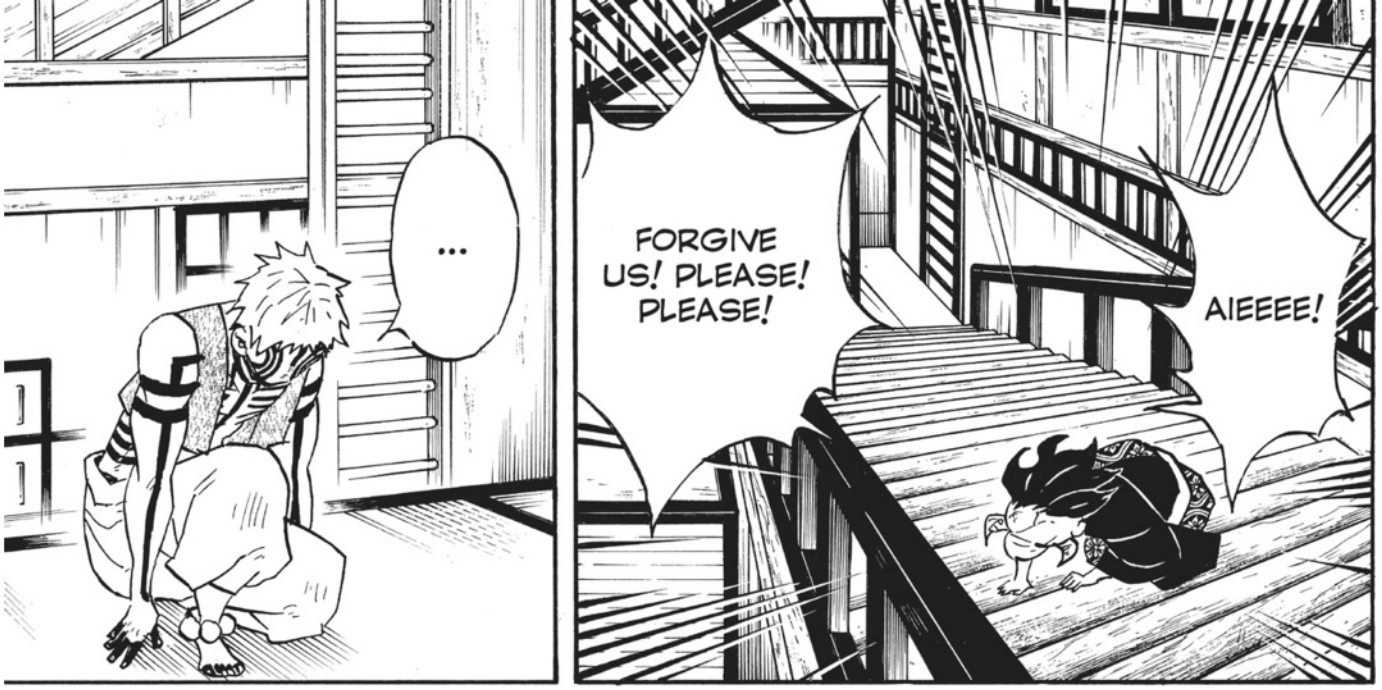

THAT'S NOT NECESSARY. YOU MAY KEEP YOUR EYEBALLS.
I SUSPECTED GYUTARO WOULD LOSE. AS I THOUGHT, DAKI WAS A HINDRANCE.

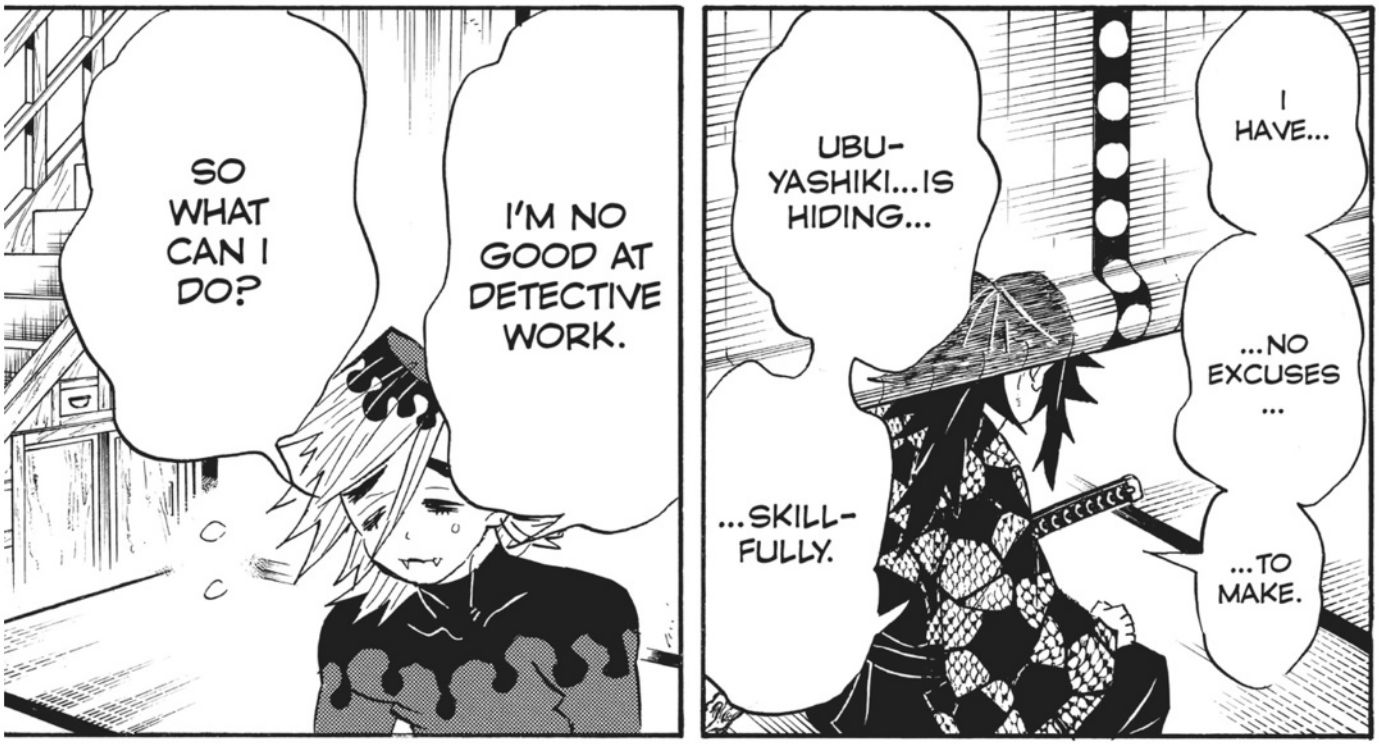
IF GYUTARO HAD FOUGHT BY HIMSELF FROM THE BEGINNING, HE WOULD HAVE WON.
SKWIP
SKWIP
HE SHOULDN'T HAVE FOUGHT AFTER POISONING THEM. BUT...
...IT DOESN'T MATTER NOW.

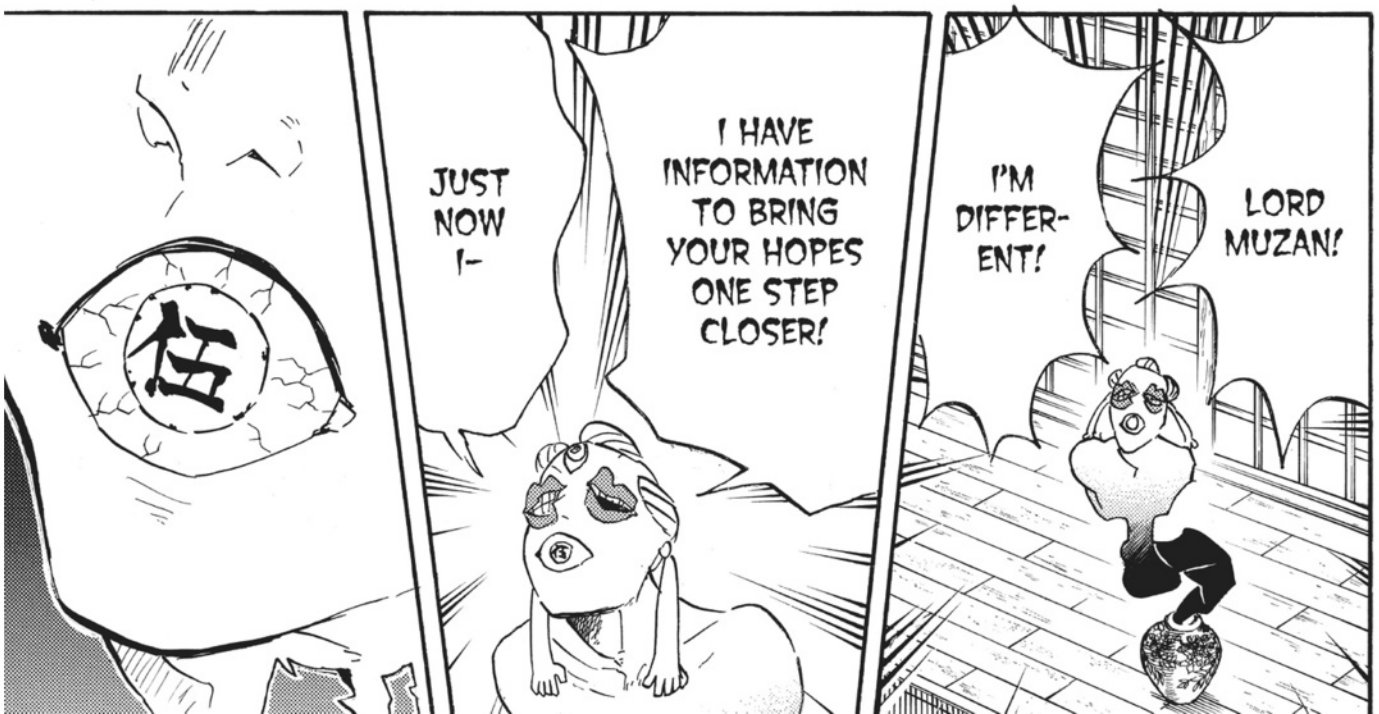

YOU'RE ALL WORTH-LESS.
YOU'RE FALLING IN THE ORDER OF WHO HAS THE MOST HUMAN PARTS REMAINING.
BUT THAT'S FINE.
I DON'T EXPECT MUCH FROM YOU ANYWAY.


YOU'RE SAY-ING SAD THINGS AGAIN.
HAVE I EVER FAILED TO MEET YOUR EXPECTA-TIONS?
YOU STILL HAVEN'T PUT THE UBUYASHIKI FAMILY IN ITS GRAVE.
AND THE *BLUE SPIDER LILY*...

AFTER HUNDREDS OF YEARS YOU STILL HAVEN'T FOUND IT.
I...
KR
IK
K
...NO LONGER KNOW WHY YOU EVEN EXIST.


...
FORGIVE US! PLEASE! PLEASE!
AIEEEE!


SO WHAT CAN I DO?
I'M NO GOOD AT DETECTIVE WORK.
UBU-YASHIKI...IS HIDING...
...SKILL-FULLY.
I HAVE...
...NO EXCUSES ...
...TO MAKE.


JUST NOW I-
I HAVE INFORMATION TO BRING YOUR HOPES ONE STEP CLOSER!
I'M DIFFER-ENT!
LORD MUZAN!

I DETEST *CHANGE*.

CHANGING CIRCUM-STANCES... CHANGES OF THE FLESH...
... CHANGING EMOTIONS ...
MOST CHANGES CAUSE WEAK-NESS AND INFERIORITY.

A PERFECT STATE... UNCHANGING FOREVER!
LORD MUZAN IS TOUCHING MY HEAD! SO VERY NICE!
I PREFER THE *UNCHANG-ING!*

THE FIRST DEATH OF AN UPPER-RANK DEMON IN 113 YEARS... IT DISPLEASES ME IMMENSELY.
DON'T EVER CONVEY SUCH UNPLEASANT INFORMATION SO GLEEFULLY AGAIN.
WHSH
ZAN
G
FROM NOW ON, YOU MUST STRUGGLE WITH GREATER DESPERATION.
IT SEEMS I HAVE BEEN TOO SOFT ON YOU BECAUSE YOU ARE MY UPPER-RANK SERVANTS.

GYOKKO...
...WHEN THE INFORMATION IS CONFIRMED, GO THERE WITH HANTENGU.
SLASH
SHMP
LORD GYOKKO!
!
BUT I GOT THE INFORMATION!
OUTRAGEOUS! BUT THAT'S ALL RIGHT...
...!
TK
CHK
TWK
AS YOU WISH!
AIEEE!

FWP
SO YOU WON'T TELL ME?!
I WANT TO GO TOO!
NO... THAT'S...
WHAT INFORMA-TION?
SLA SH
I'M BEGGING Y—
GET LOST!
DID LORD MUZAN GIVE YOU AN ORDER?

I hope they all leave soon...
Biwa demon:
Nasume

CHAPTER 99: SOMEONE'S DREAM

PLOP
SPLAT
AKAZA...
AIEEEE!

YOU...
...GO TOO FAR.
I DON'T MIND AT ALL!
SNAP
IT'S ALL RIGHT, LORD KOKU-SHIBO!
POP

I AM NOT SAYING THIS FOR *YOUR* SAKE.
IT DISTURBS THE RANKING.
EVEN I FEAR THAT CRACKS MIGHT FORM IN THE HIERARCHY.
OH...
... RIGHT.
SNAP
AKAZA ...
...IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, THEN REQUEST *BLOOD COMBAT* TO REPLACE US.

BUT LORD KOKUSHIBO...
EVEN IF HE MAKES THAT REQUEST, LORD AKAZA CAN'T BEAT US!
I KNOW THAT IN MY CASE, I BECAME A DEMON LATER THAN LORD AKAZA...
...
...BUT I ROSE MORE QUICKLY THROUGH THE RANKS, SO HE'S MAD! YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT.
BESIDES, I PURPOSELY DIDN'T DODGE. I WAS JUST PLAYING AROUND A LITTLE.
HA HA
THIS IS HOW WE BOND!
WE MUST BE LENIENT WITH THOSE RANKED BELOW US, NOT SCORN THEM.
AKAZA...

*EYES: UPPER 1

I'M DEFINITELY GOING TO KILL YOU.

YES.
YOU HAVE MY...
...ENCOUR-AGEMENT.

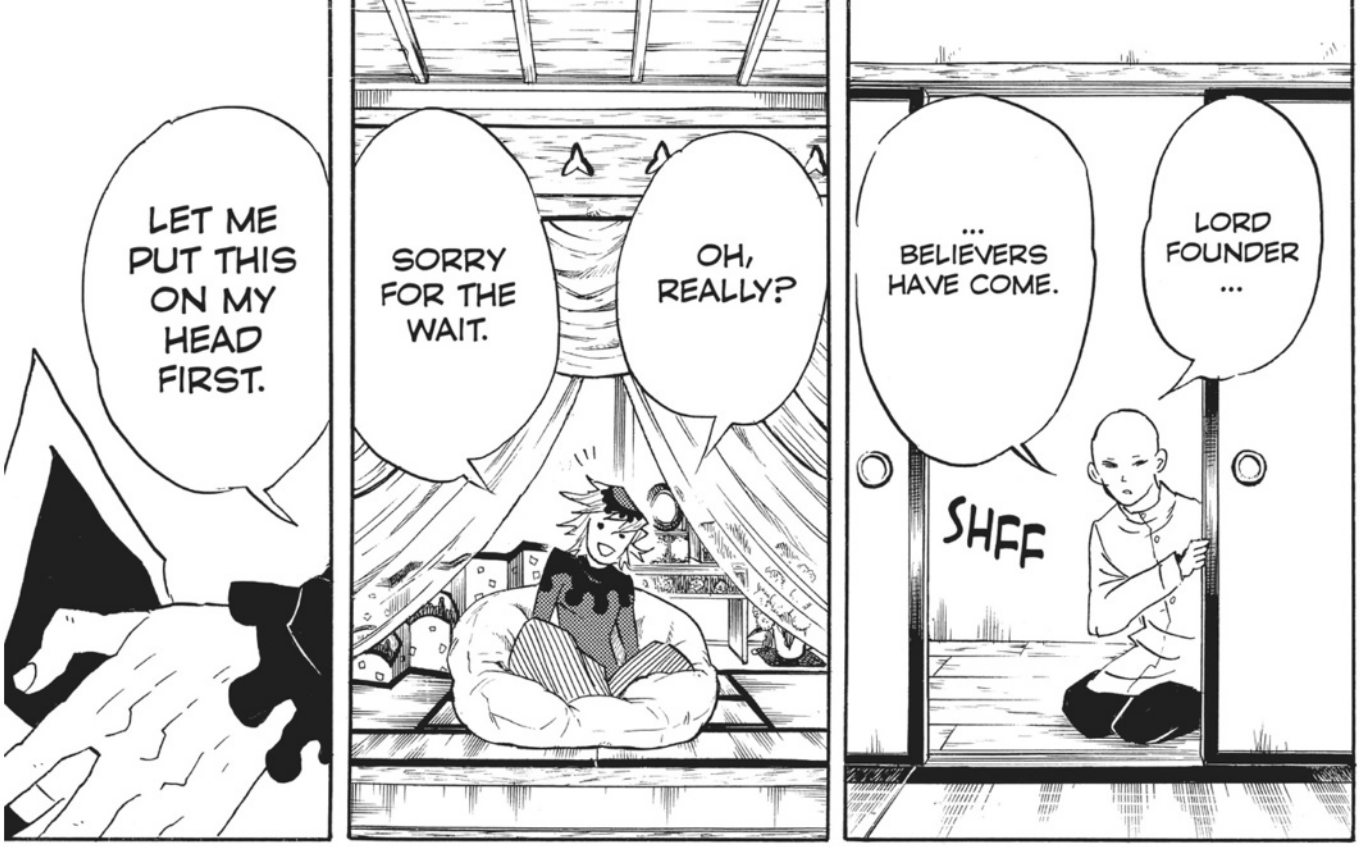
Wish

GOOD-BYE, LORD KOKUSHIBO!
...
GOOD-BYE!

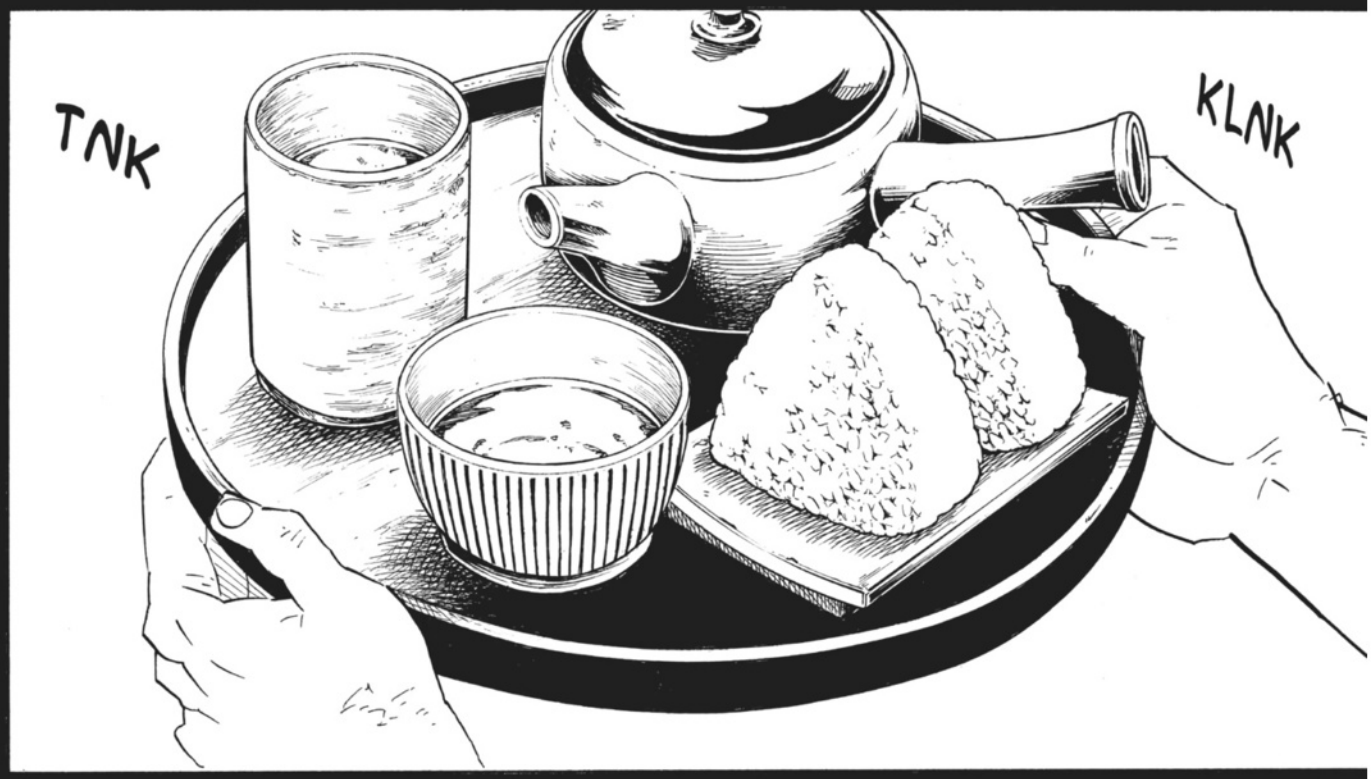
I'M OVER-THINKING IT, AREN'T I, LORD AKAZA?
I SORTA FEEL LIKE I WAS CUT OUT OF THAT CONVERSATION.
LORD AKAZA! WE WERE STILL TALKING!
BWOSH
FLOP FLIP
SEND ME AND HANTENGU TO THE SAME PLACE!

WAIT. I'LL GO TOO...
YIKES ...
JAMMING
ALONE
SHHH
HEY, BIWA PLAYER...
HOW ABOUT LATER ON YOU AND I—?
I DECLINE.

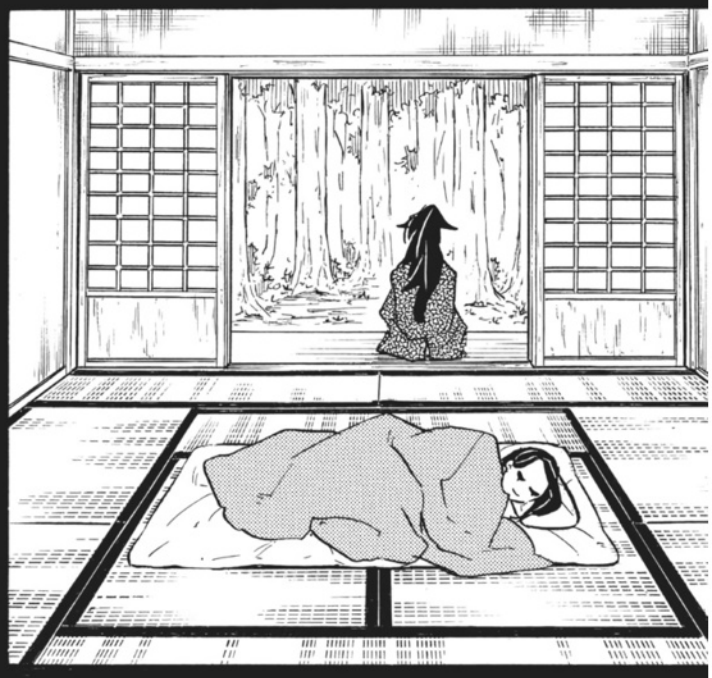
*SIGNS: PARADISE


LORD FOUNDER ...
... BELIEVERS HAVE COME.
SHFF
OH, REALLY?
SORRY FOR THE WAIT.
LET ME PUT THIS ON MY HEAD FIRST.

PLEASE, PLEASE...
...SHOW THEM IN!

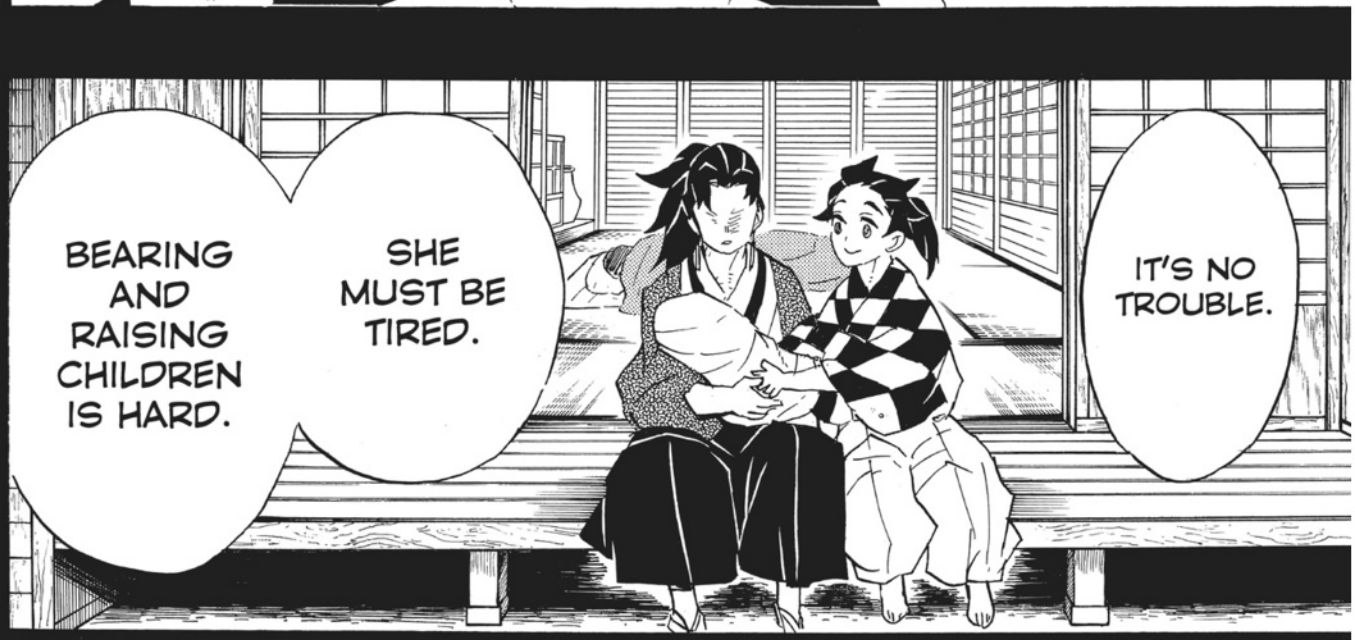

TNK
KLNK

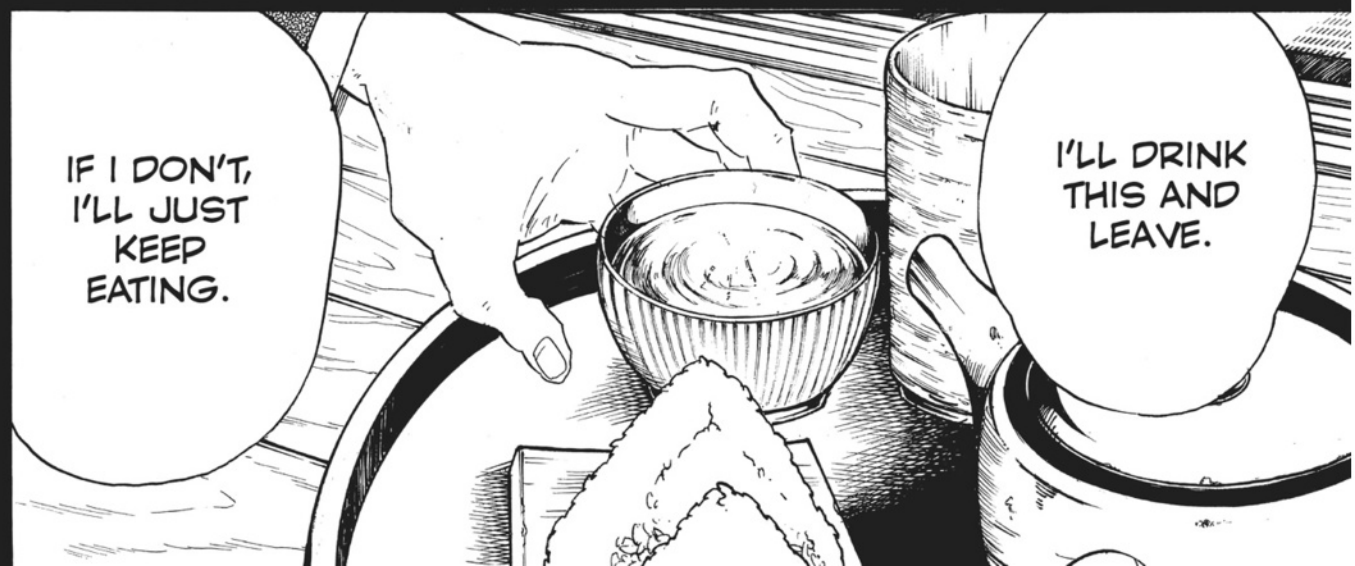
KLNK
TNK



I MADE TEA.
OH...
...THANK YOU.
ZZZ
ZZZ
WHEW! HE'S SOUND ASLEEP!
IT APPEARS MY WIFE ALSO FELL ASLEEP. SORRY.
ZZZ
ZZZ

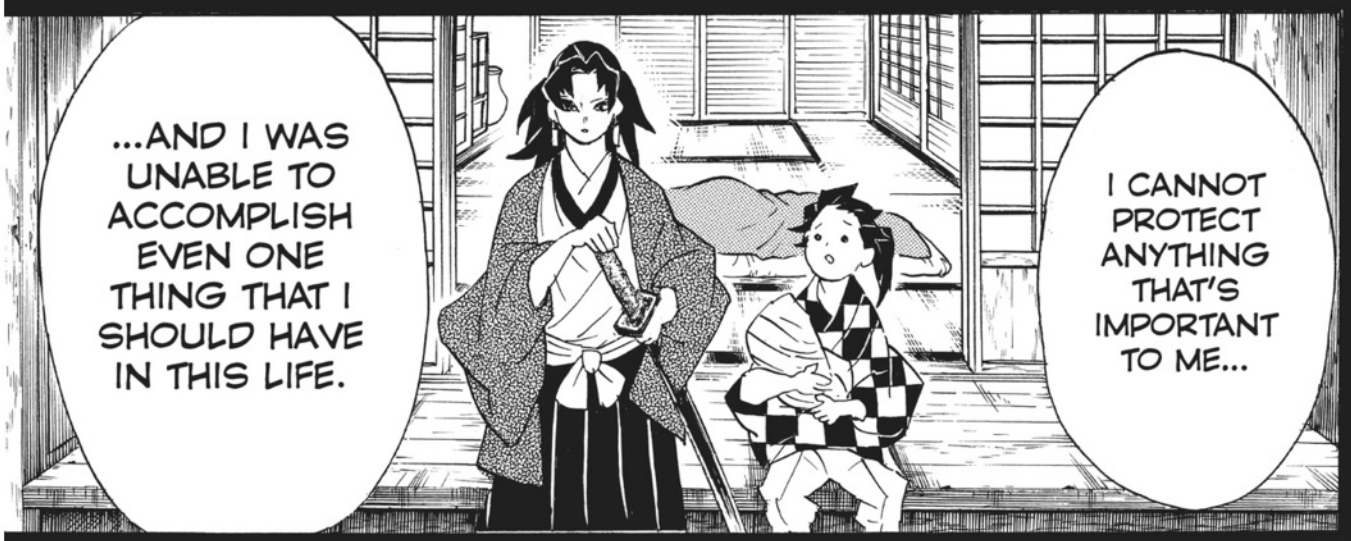
I REALLY AM SORRY...
...TO ASK A VISITOR LIKE YOU TO WATCH MY CHILD.


IT'S NO TROUBLE.
SHE MUST BE TIRED.
BEARING AND RAISING CHILDREN IS HARD.


I'LL DRINK THIS AND LEAVE.
IF I DON'T, I'LL JUST KEEP EATING.

IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU, MY CHILD WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN BORN.
WE OWE YOU OUR LIVES.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
BUT I'LL TELL MY CHILDREN AND GRAND-CHILDREN ABOUT YOU!
I UNDER-STAND.
...
SIP
...SOME-DAY SOME-ONE WILL...
EVEN IF I'M JUST A MERE CHARCOAL SELLER...
IT'S NOT NECES-SARY.
...IF YOU HAVE NO HEIRS, WHO WILL REMEMBER ...?
BUT...
THAT ISN'T NECES-SARY.

SUMI-
YOSHI...
...THOSE WHO MASTER THEIR TRADE ALL ARRIVE AT THE SAME PLACE.
EVEN IF THE TIMES CHANGE OR THE WAY TO THAT PLACE CHANGES...
...THEY ARE CERTAIN TO REACH THE SAME PLACE.
YOU SEEM TO THINK I'M SOMEONE SPECIAL...
...BUT I'M NOT.


...AND I WAS UNABLE TO ACCOMPLISH EVEN ONE THING THAT I SHOULD HAVE IN THIS LIFE.
I CANNOT PROTECT ANYTHING THAT'S IMPORTANT TO ME...

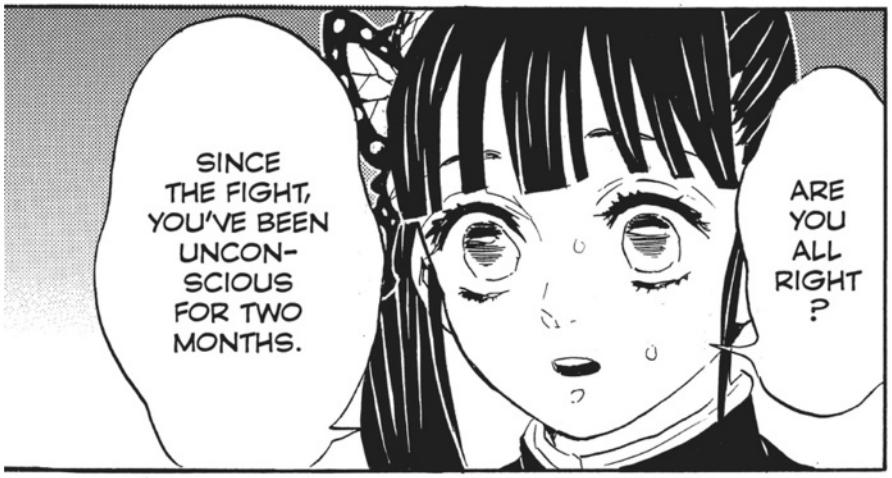
AW...
PLEASE DON'T ...
I AM A MAN WITHOUT ANY VALUE.

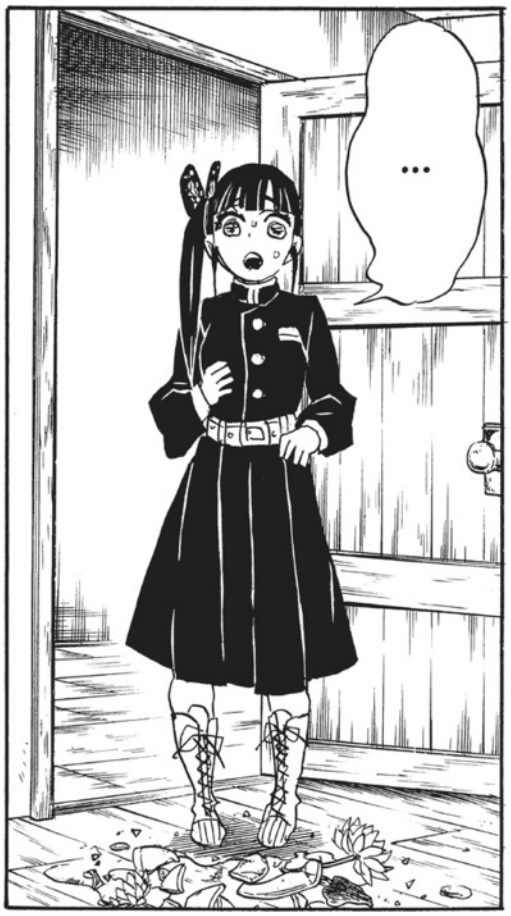
I BEG YOU, DON'T TALK ABOUT YOURSELF LIKE THAT.
PLEASE ...
I DON'T WANT YOU TO TALK LIKE THAT.

SO VERY SAD.
IT'S SAD...

WHERE... AM I?
WAS THAT...A DREAM?

KRASE


SINCE THE FIGHT, YOU'VE BEEN UNCON-SCIOUS FOR TWO MONTHS.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?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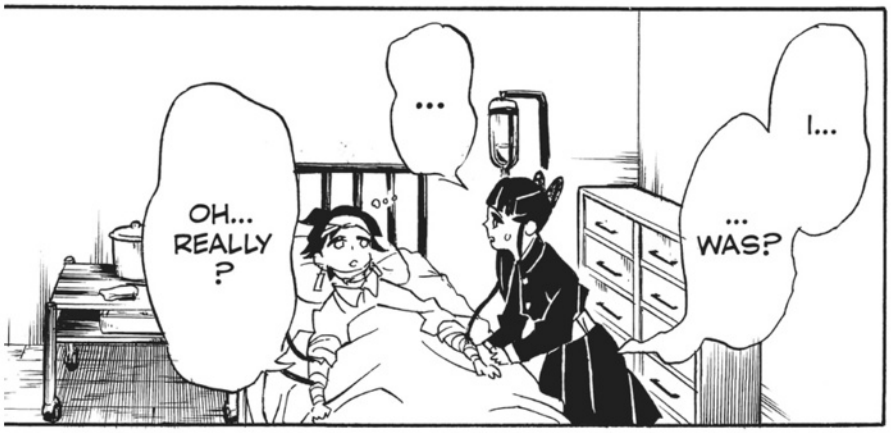
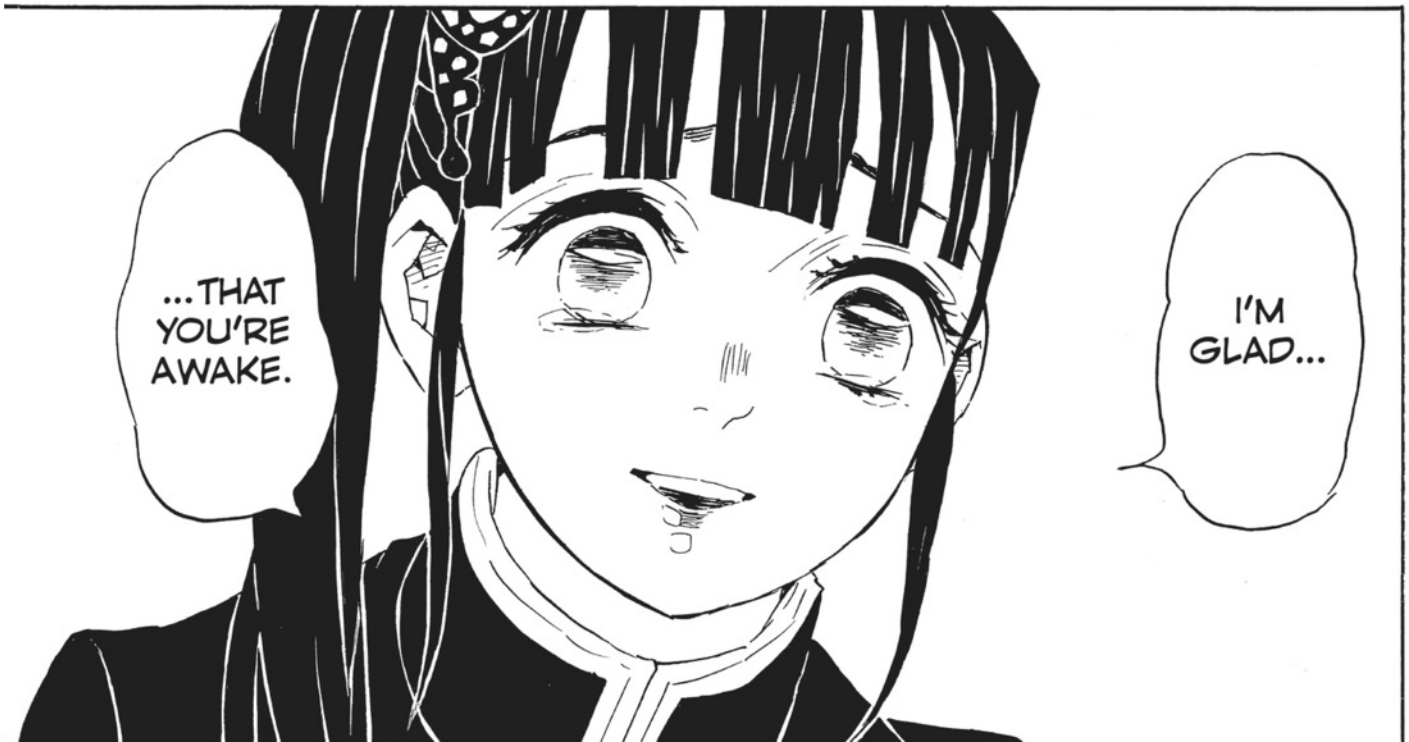

...
I...
...WAS?
OH... REALLY?


...THAT YOU'RE AWAKE.
I'M GLAD...

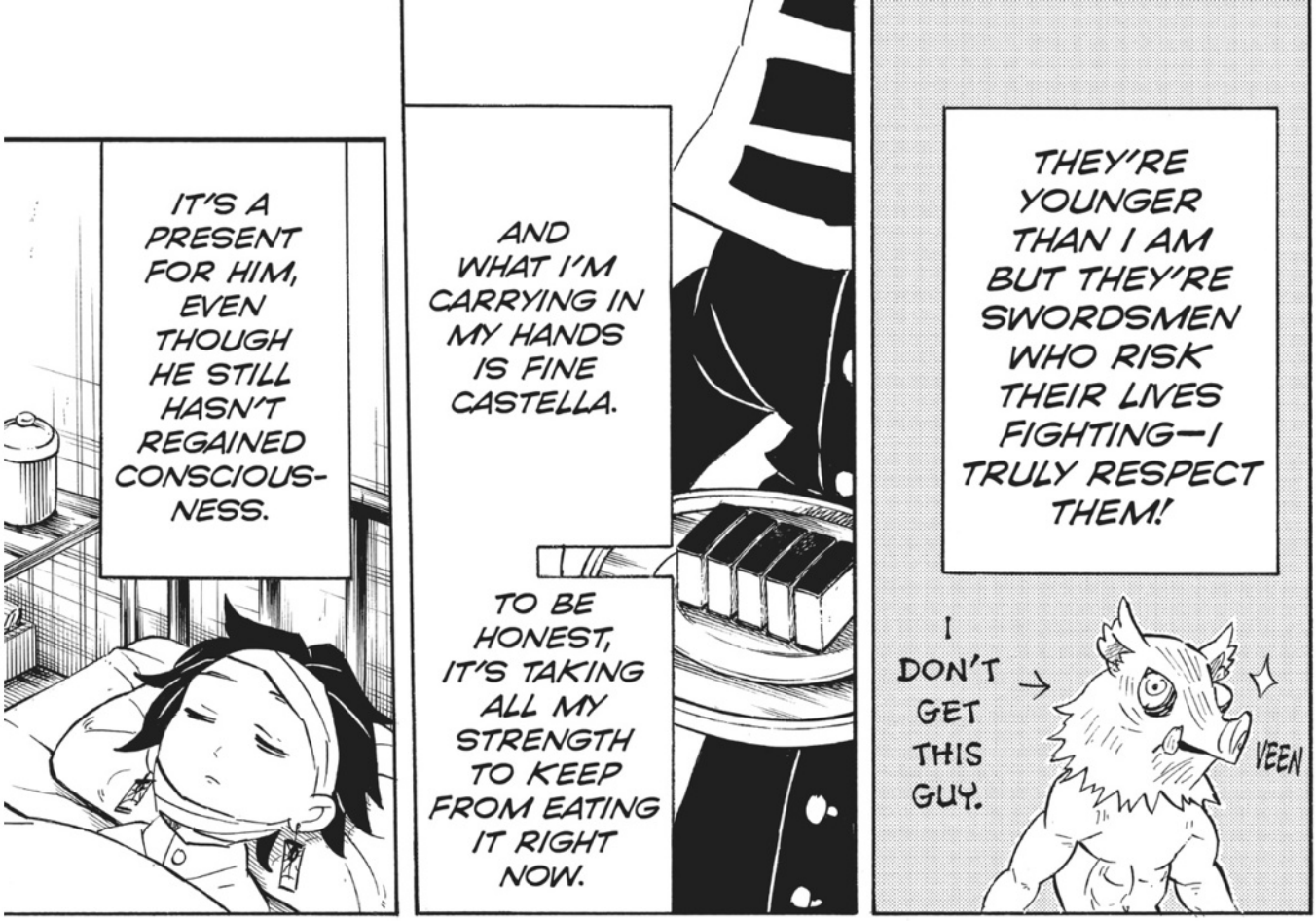
Good... I thought he was gonna die!
TREMBLE
SHAKE

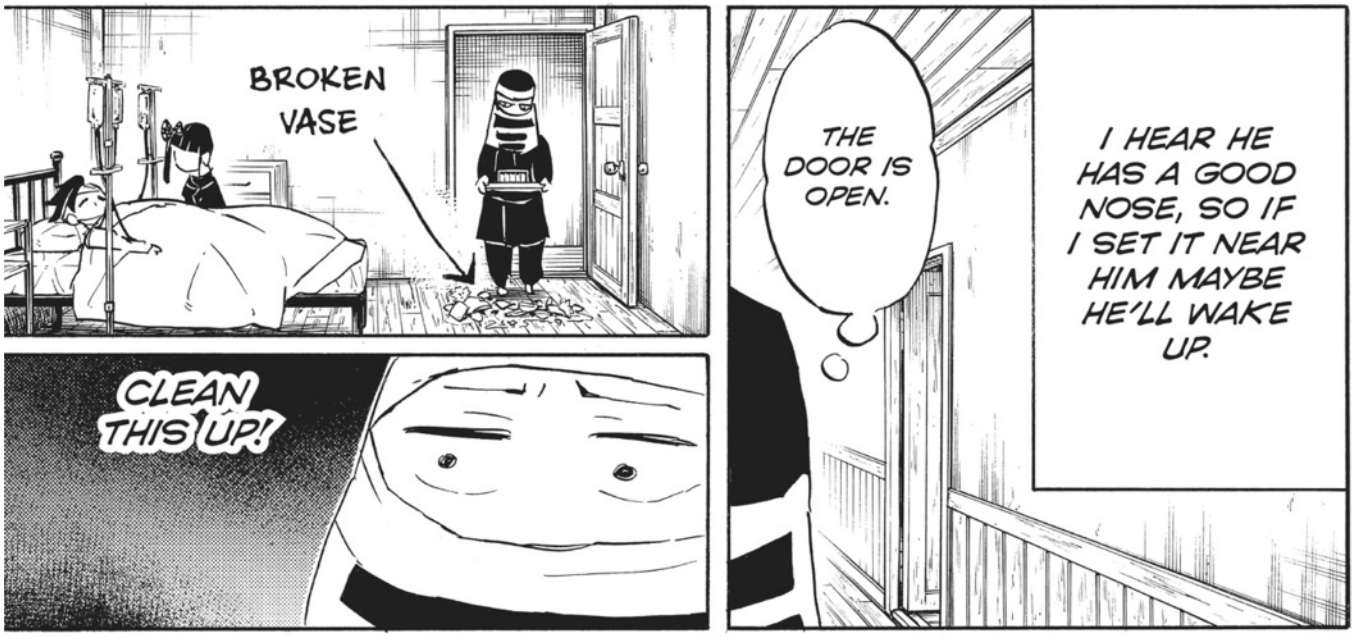
CHAPTER 100:
GO TO THE
VILLAGE!

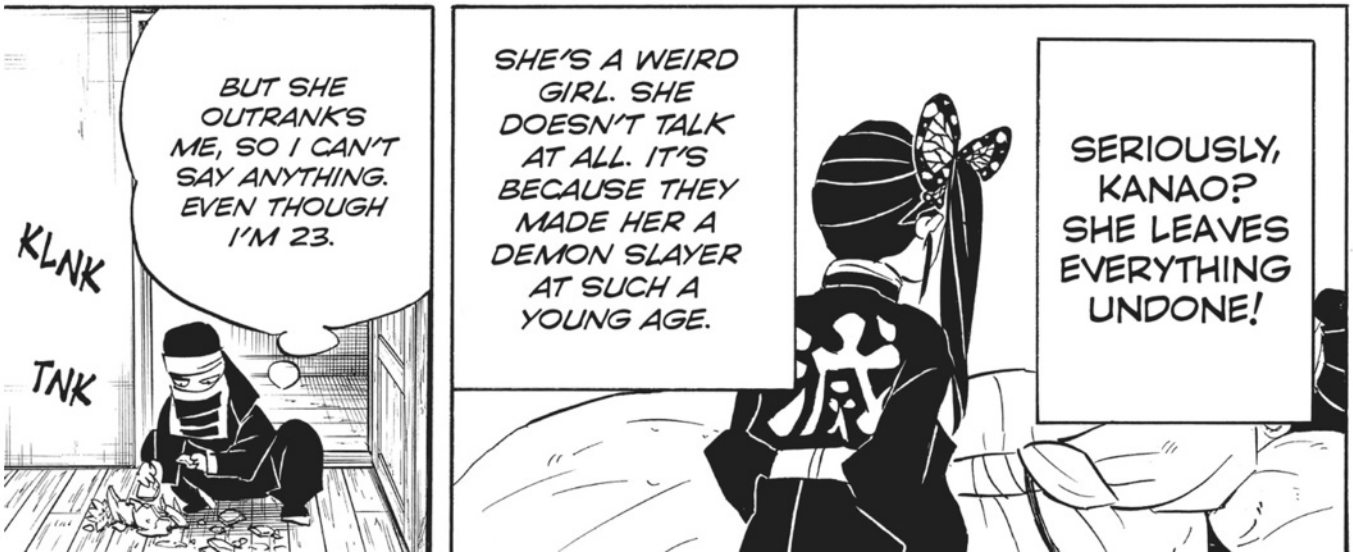
I'M A KAKUSHI IN THE CLEAN-UP CREW OF THE DEMON SLAYER CORPS.
MY NAME IS GOTO.

I'M ALSO THE ONE WHO FOUND HIM AND THE OTHERS IN THE ENTER-TAINMENT DISTRICT TWO MONTHS AGO.
TP
TP
TP
I HAVE A FATEFUL CONNEC-TION WITH HIM.
I'M THE ONE WHO TOLD TANJIRO KAMADO "HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA SLEEP?! GET UP ALREADY, WOULD YA?!" DURING THE HASHIRA MEETING.
GRAH!
YAH!

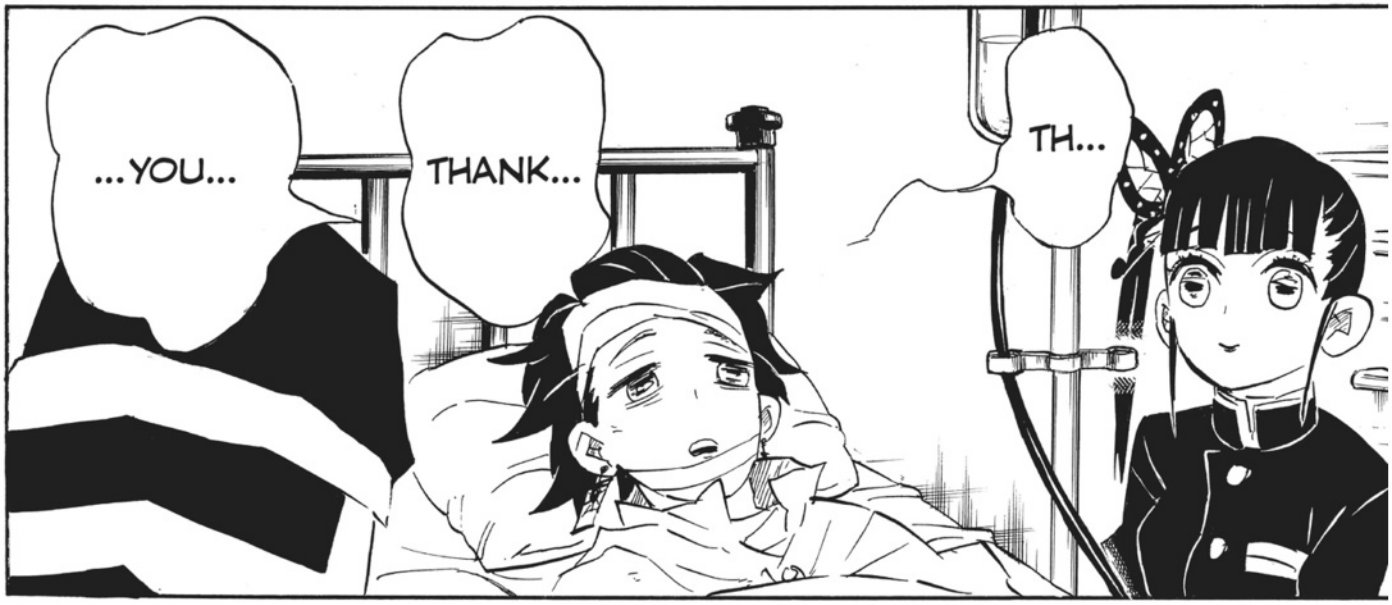
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT... BUT THEY WERE JUST UNCON-SCIOUS.
THEY'RE SUCH CLOSE FRIENDS!
THEY LOOKED LIKE THIS.


IT'S A PRESENT FOR HIM, EVEN THOUGH HE STILL HASN'T REGAINED CONSCIOUS-NESS.
AND WHAT I'M CARRYING IN MY HANDS IS FINE CASTELLA.
TO BE HONEST, IT'S TAKING ALL MY STRENGTH TO KEEP FROM EATING IT RIGHT NOW.
THEY'RE YOUNGER THAN I AM BUT THEY'RE SWORDSMEN WHO RISK THEIR LIVES FIGHTING—I TRULY RESPECT THEM!
I DON'T GET THIS GUY.
VEEN

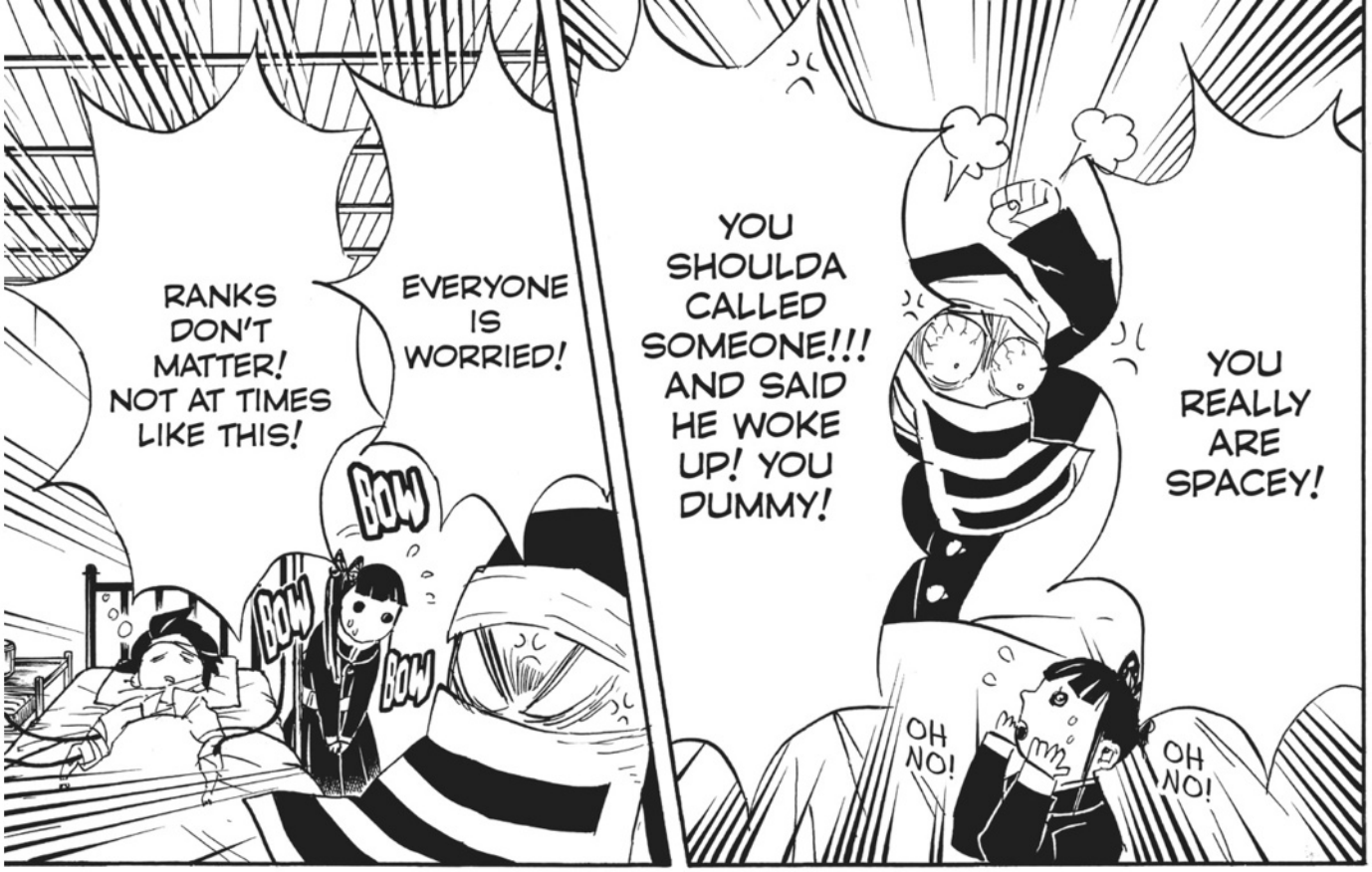

BROKEN VASE
CLEAN THIS UP!
THE DOOR IS OPEN.
I HEAR HE HAS A GOOD NOSE, SO IF I SET IT NEAR HIM MAYBE HE'LL WAKE UP.


KLNK
TNK
BUT SHE OUTRANKS ME, SO I CAN'T SAY ANYTHING. EVEN THOUGH I'M 23.
SHE'S A WEIRD GIRL. SHE DOESN'T TALK AT ALL. IT'S BECAUSE THEY MADE HER A DEMON SLAYER AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE.
SERIOUSLY, KANAO? SHE LEAVES EVERYTHING UNDONE!

UM, I'M PUTTING THE CASTELLA HERE...
...IF IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING BAD, YOU CAN THROW IT AWAY OR EAT IT...


TH...
THANK...
...YOU...

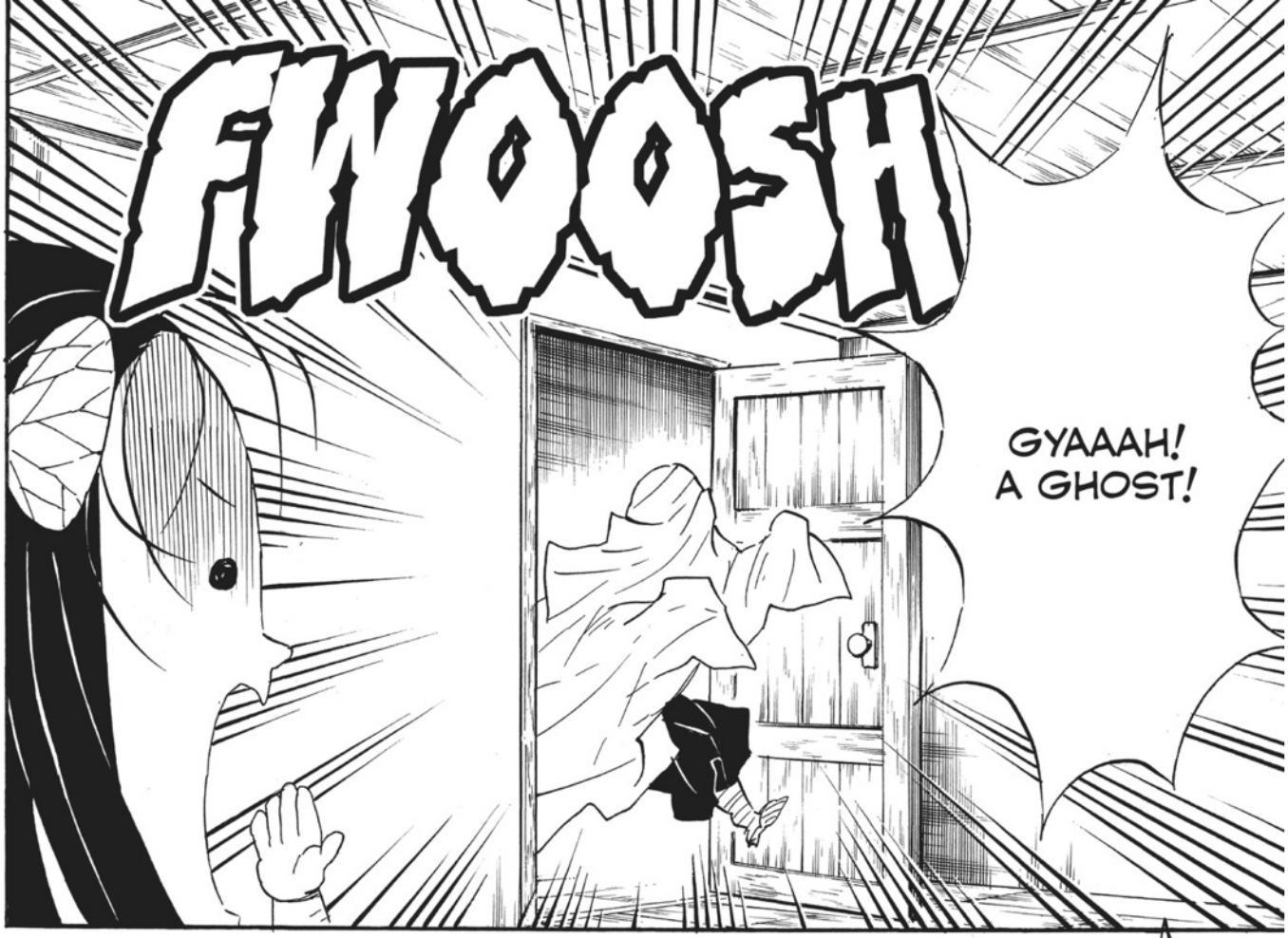
HE...
YOU SHOULD BE MORE EXCITED!
HE'S AWAKE ?!

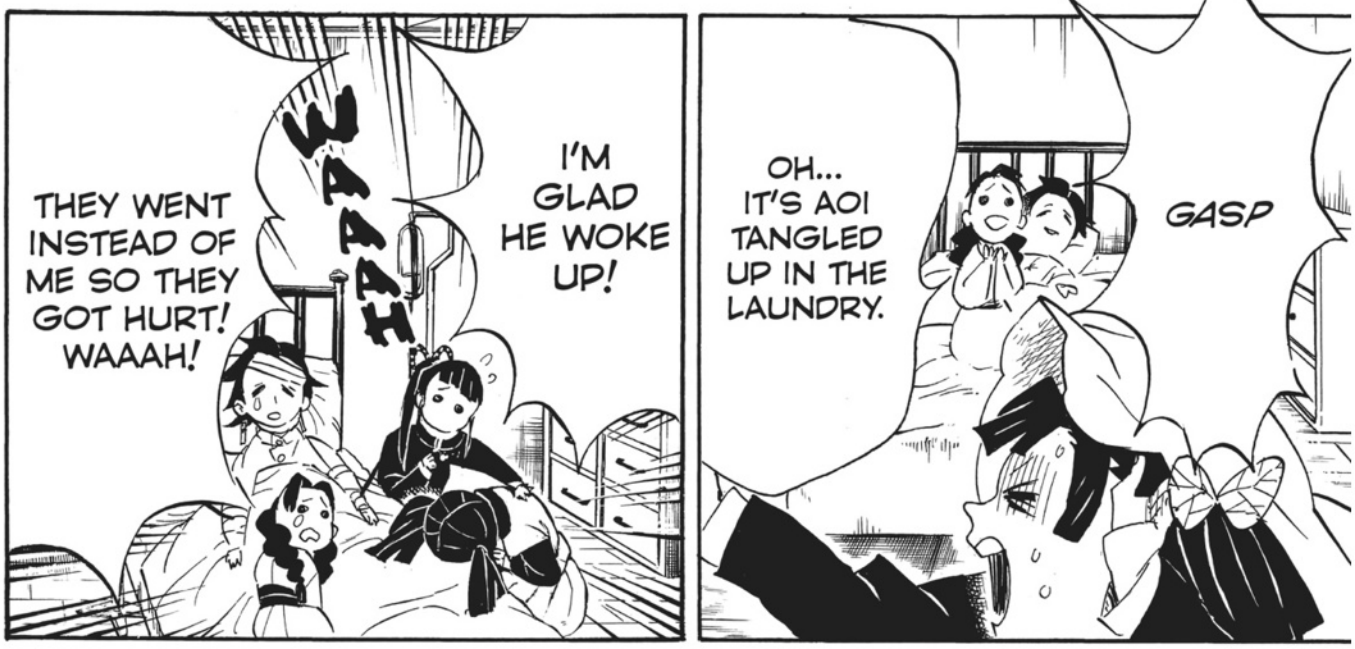

RANKS DON'T MATTER! NOT AT TIMES LIKE THIS!
EVERYONE IS WORRIED!
BOW
BOW
BOW
YOU SHOULDA CALLED SOMEONE!!! AND SAID HE WOKE UP! YOU DUMMY!
YOU REALLY ARE SPACEY!
OH NO!
OH NO!

WAAAH

AOI! TANJIRO HAS REGAINED CONSCIOUS-NESS!
KIYO! SUMI! NAHO!
ABDOMINAL BREATHING

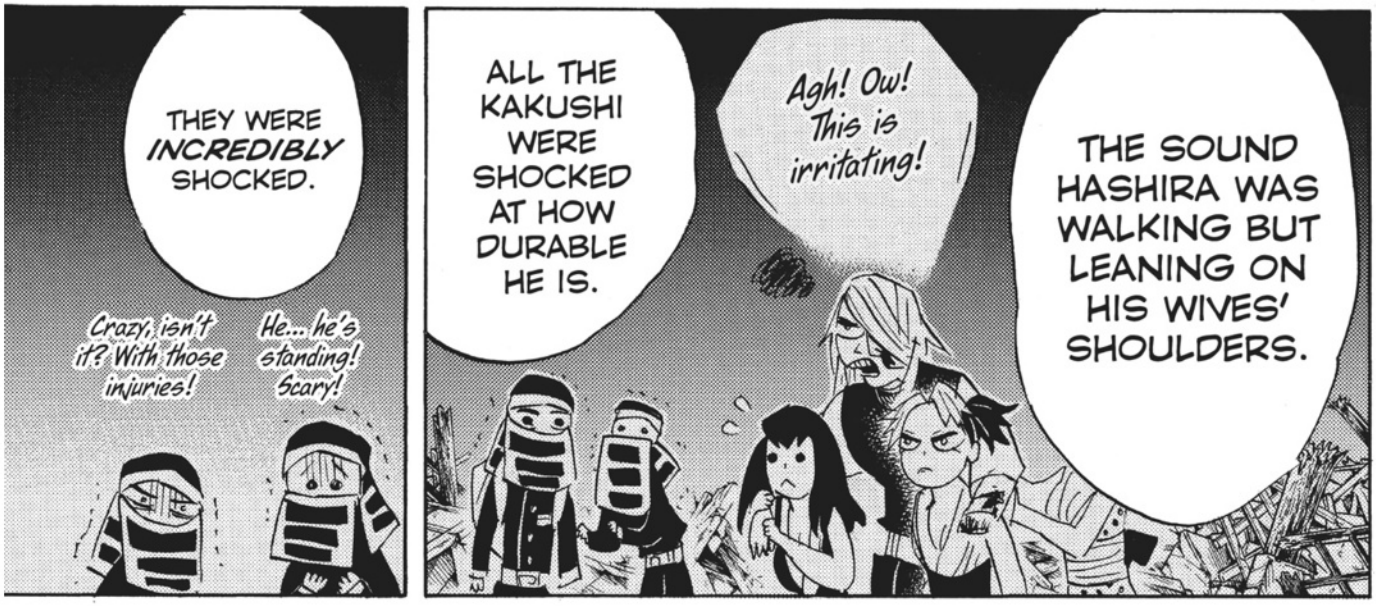
TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP
I'LL BAKE YOU SOME ANPAN!
I'M GLAD!
THE CASTELLA IS FALLING ...

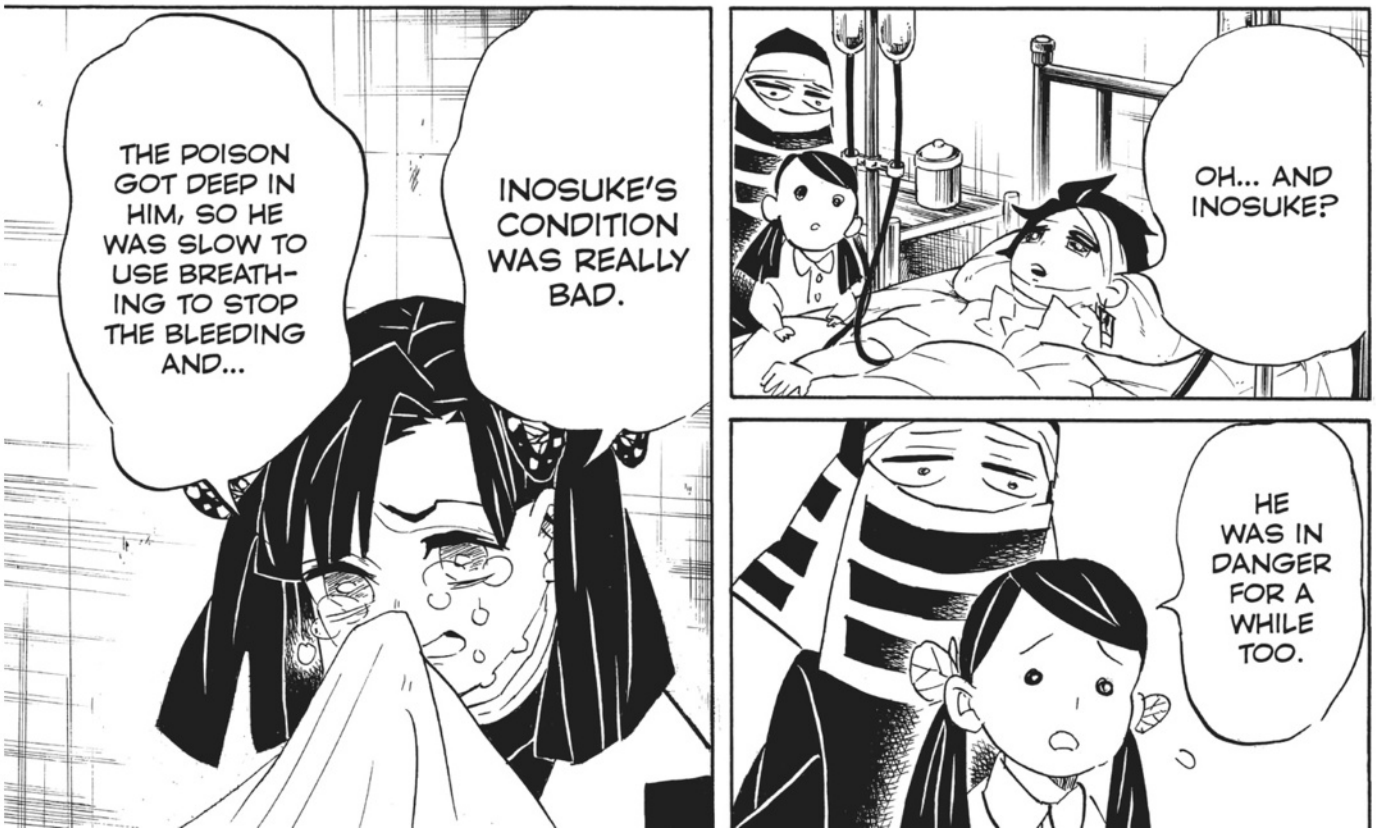

FWOOSH
GYAAAH! A GHOST!


GASP
OH... IT'S AOI TANGLED UP IN THE LAUNDRY.
I'M GLAD HE WOKE UP!
WAAAH
THEY WENT INSTEAD OF ME SO THEY GOT HURT! WAAAH!

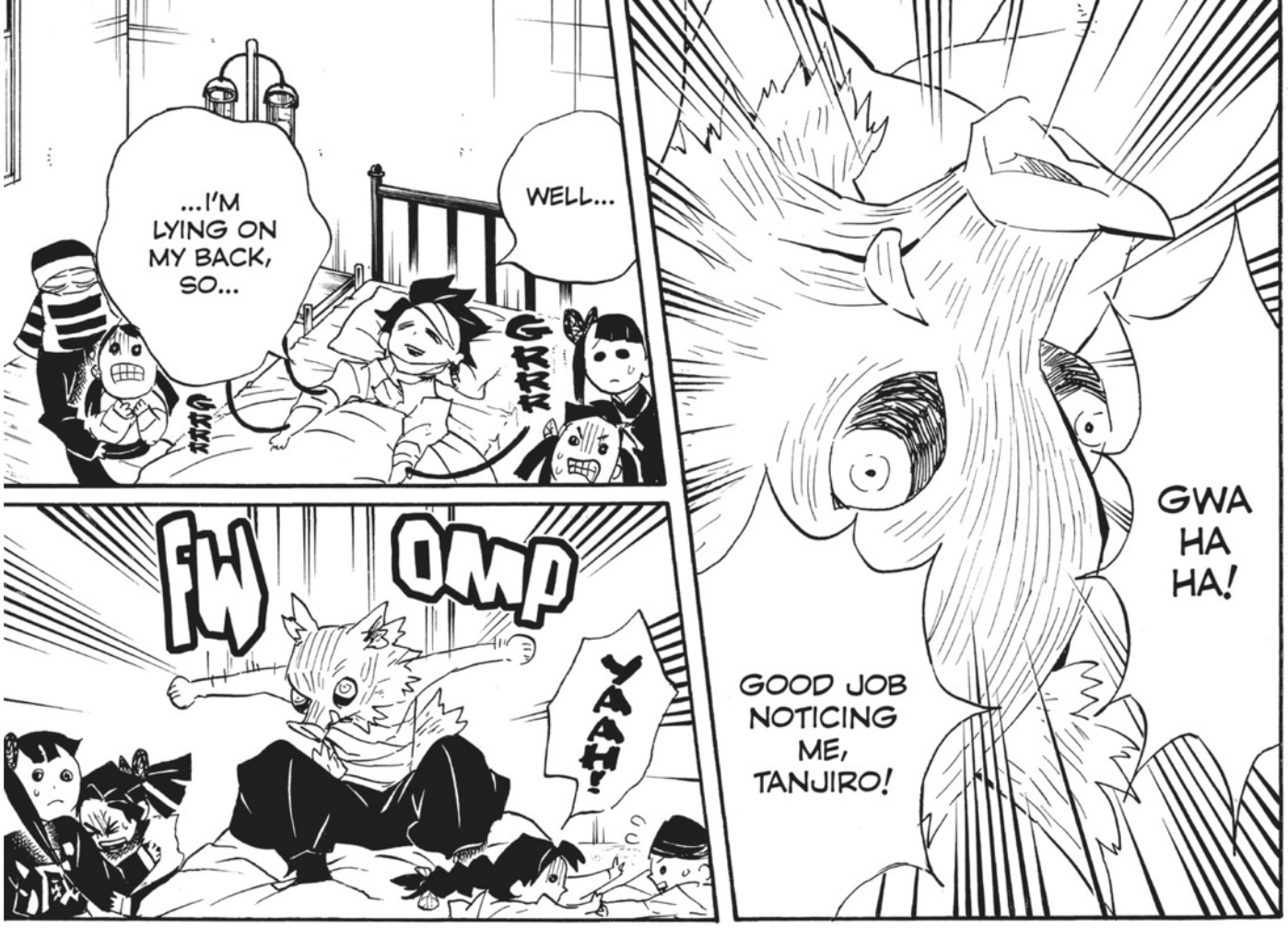
THANK... YOU.
EVERY-ONE... ELSE...
ARE THEY... ALL RIGHT?

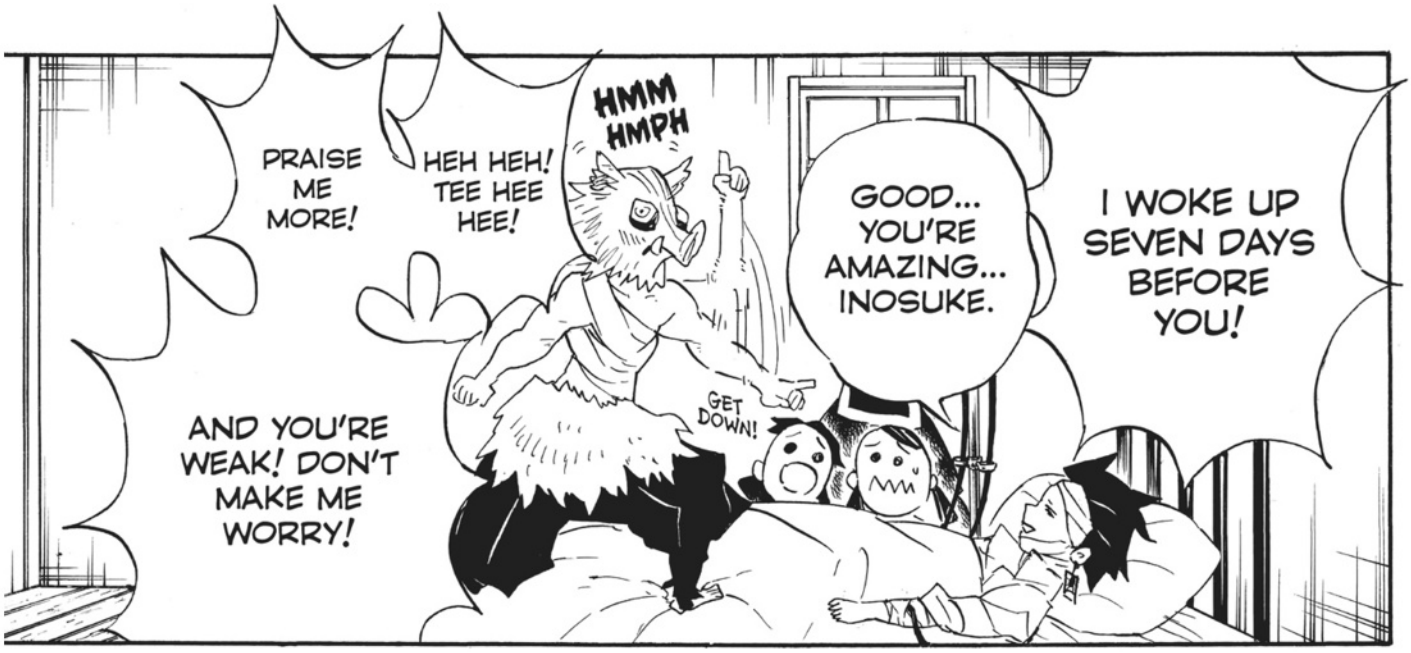
THE YELLOW-HEADED ONE... WAS IT TWO DAYS AGO?
YEP!
HE'S ACTIVE AGAIN. HE'S ON A MISSION, BUT RELUC-TANTLY.
ZENITSU WOKE UP THE NEXT DAY.


THE SOUND HASHIRA WAS WALKING BUT LEANING ON HIS WIVES' SHOULDERS.
Agh! Ow! This is irritating!
ALL THE KAKUSHI WERE SHOCKED AT HOW DURABLE HE IS.
THEY WERE INCREDIBLY SHOCKED.
He... he's standing! Scary!
Crazy, isn't it? With those injuries!

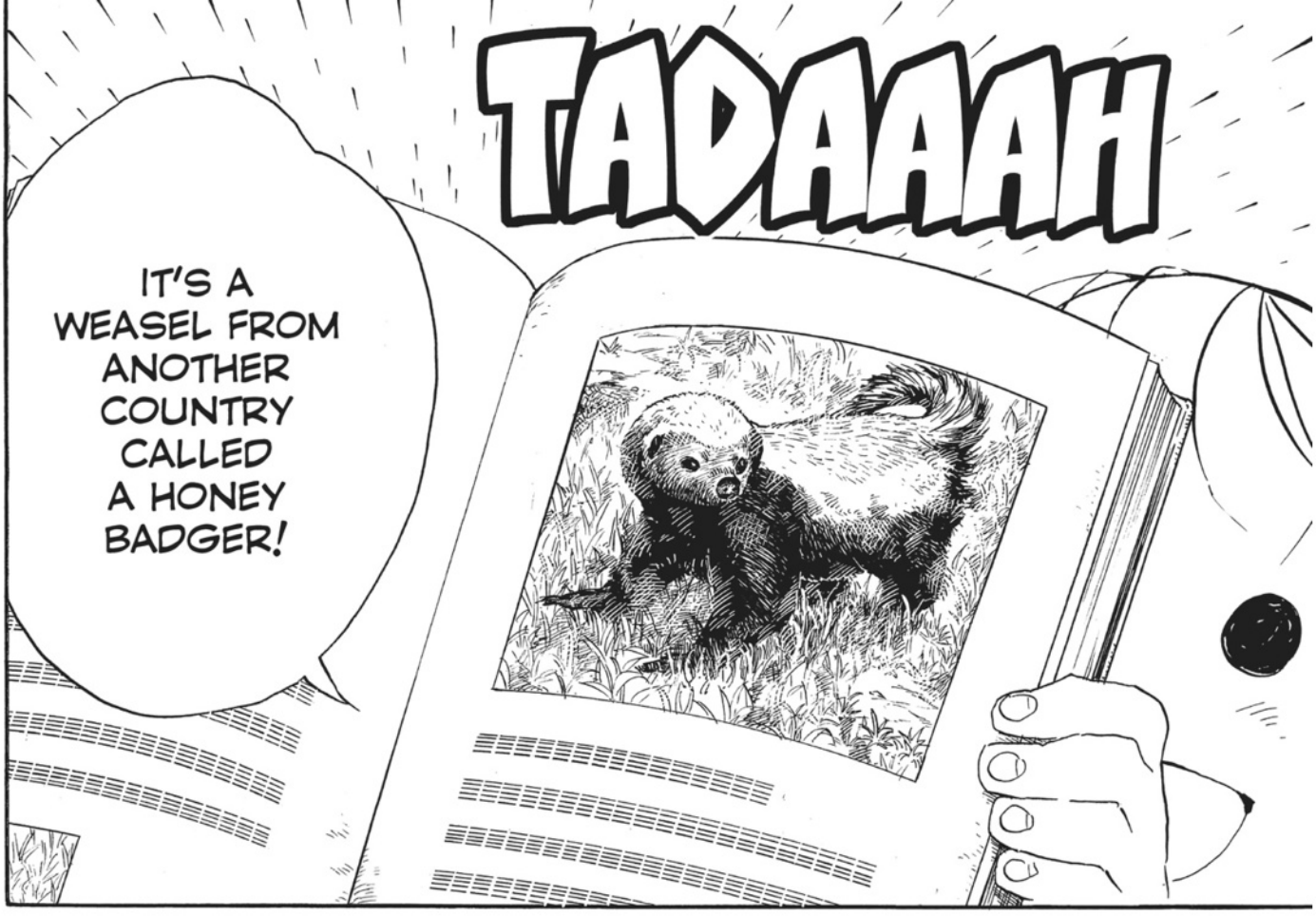

OH... AND INOSUKE?
HE WAS IN DANGER FOR A WHILE TOO.
INOSUKE'S CONDITION WAS REALLY BAD.
THE POISON GOT DEEP IN HIM, SO HE WAS SLOW TO USE BREATH-ING TO STOP THE BLEEDING AND...

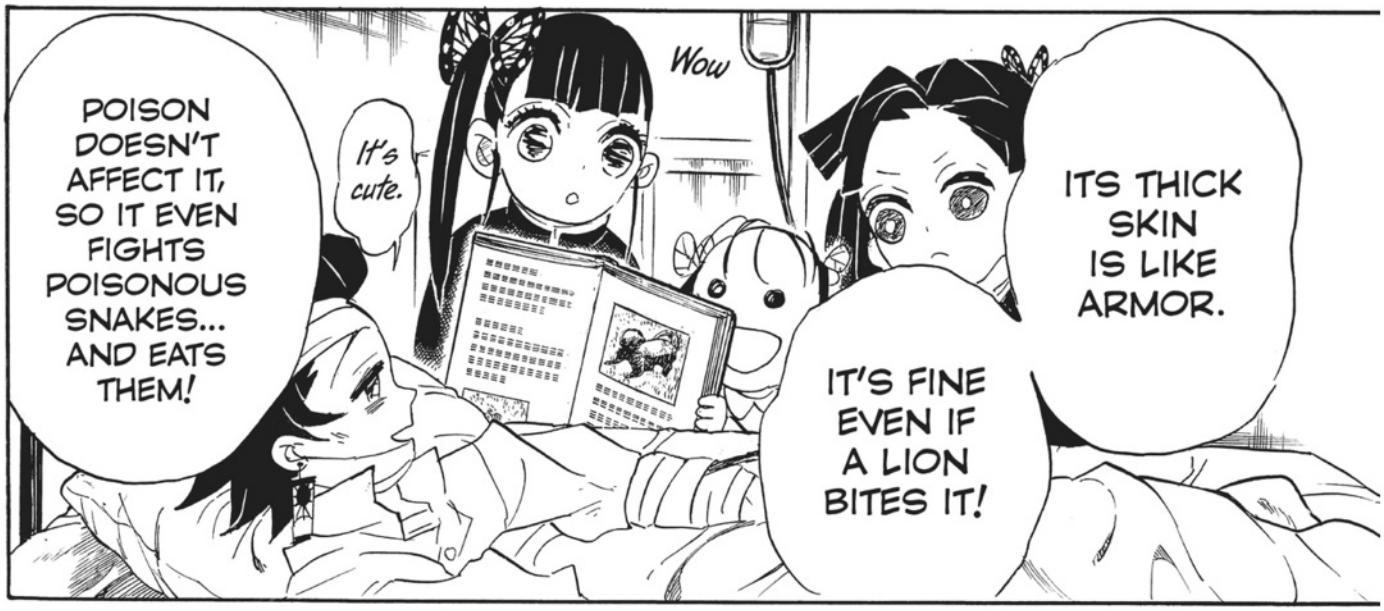
...I MUST BE HALLUCI-NATING HIM CLINGING TO THE CEILING.
OH... IN THAT CASE...
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!
KYAAAAH!
UWAAAH!


...I'M LYING ON MY BACK, SO...
WELL...
GRRR
GRRR
GWA HA HA!
GOOD JOB NOTICING ME, TANJIRO!
FW
OMP
YAAH!


PRAISE ME MORE!
HEH HEH! TEE HEE HEE!
HMM HMPH
GOOD... YOU'RE AMAZING... INOSUKE.
I WOKE UP SEVEN DAYS BEFORE YOU!
GET DOWN!
AND YOU'RE WEAK! DON'T MAKE ME WORRY!

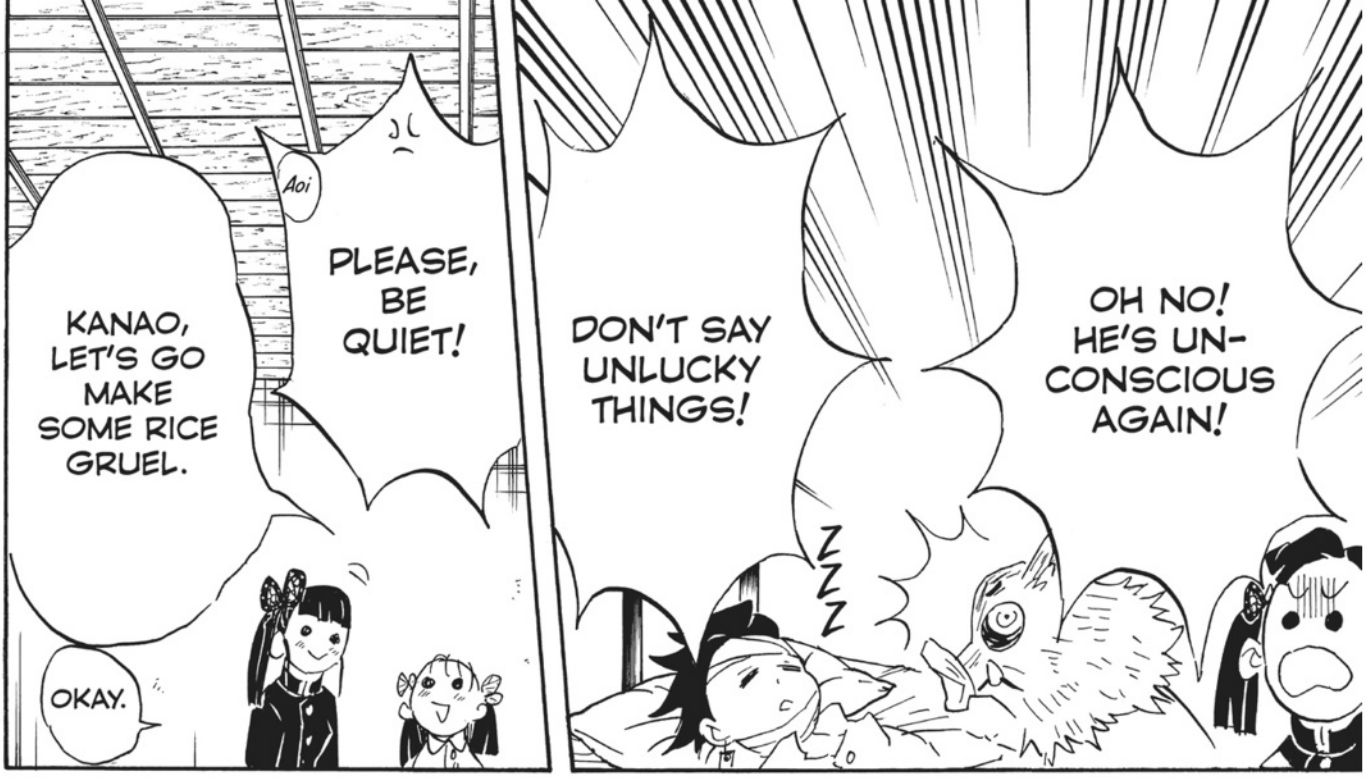
OH, RIGHT. LOOK AT THIS BOOK, TANJIRO!
PINCH?
SHINOBU SAID THAT TOO, RIGHT?!
BUT YOU AREN'T NORMAL, INOSUKE!


TADAAAH
IT'S A WEASEL FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY CALLED A HONEY BADGER!


POISON DOESN'T AFFECT IT, SO IT EVEN FIGHTS POISONOUS SNAKES... AND EATS THEM!
It's cute.
Wow
ITS THICK SKIN IS LIKE ARMOR.
IT'S FINE EVEN IF A LION BITES IT!

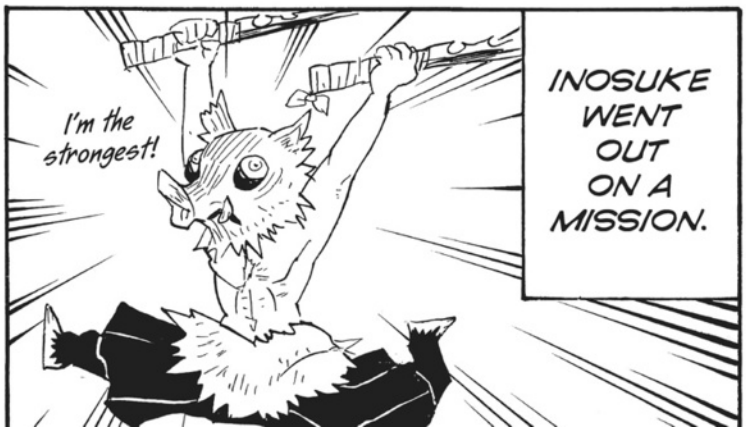
MAYBE SHE GOT TIRED OF WORRY-ING ABOUT HIM?
...
LADY KOCHO CAN BE CARELESS.
TEE HEE
HEH HEH...
SHINOBU SAID INOSUKE IS THE SAME WAY.
GET DOWN HERE!

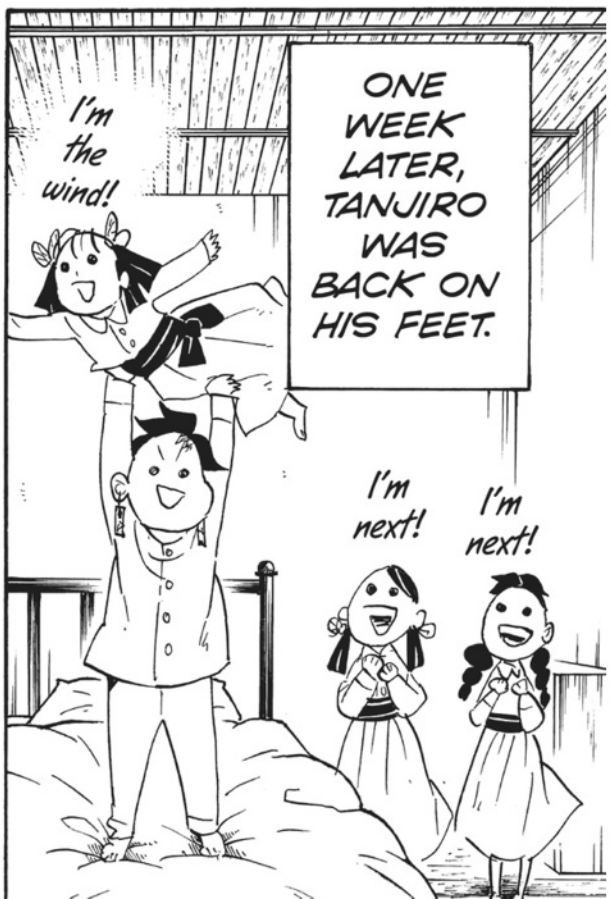
WHO'S DUMB, YOU JERK?!
KYAAAH! STOP THAT!
OUCH!
WA HA HA
NO, YOU'RE NOT! ARE YOU DUMB?!
IN OTHER WORDS, I'M IMMORTAL!
SHINOBU TOLD YOU THAT TOO, DIDN'T SHE?! BUT YOU ALREADY FORGOT!
POISON DOESN'T WORK WELL ON YOU BUT NEITHER DOES MEDICINE! SO BE CAREFUL!
TANJIRO FELL ASLEEP... SO BE QUIET!
WHAT?! WE AREN'T THAT DIFFERENT IN HEIGHT!
B...
BE QUIET...
SHUT UP! STOP PULL-ING ON ME, YOU SHRIMP!
QUIET...


KANAO, LET'S GO MAKE SOME RICE GRUEL.
Aoi
PLEASE, BE QUIET!
OKAY.
DON'T SAY UNLUCKY THINGS!
OH NO! HE'S UNCONSCIOUS AGAIN!
ZZZ

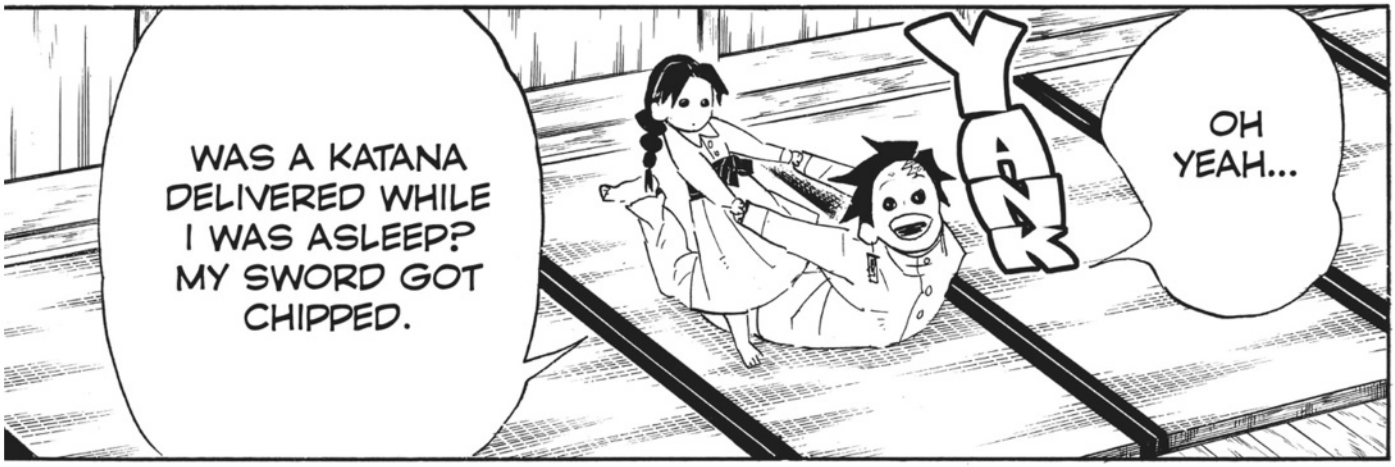
STARE
I HOPE HE RECOVERS QUICKLY AND CAN EAT A LOT.

THEY'RE ALL MONSTERS.
Letter from Kiyo.
WHOA, SERIOUSLY?
Camping out.


I'm the strongest!
INOSUKE WENT OUT ON A MISSION.


ONE WEEK LATER, TANJIRO WAS BACK ON HIS FEET.
I'm the wind!
I'm next!
I'm next!

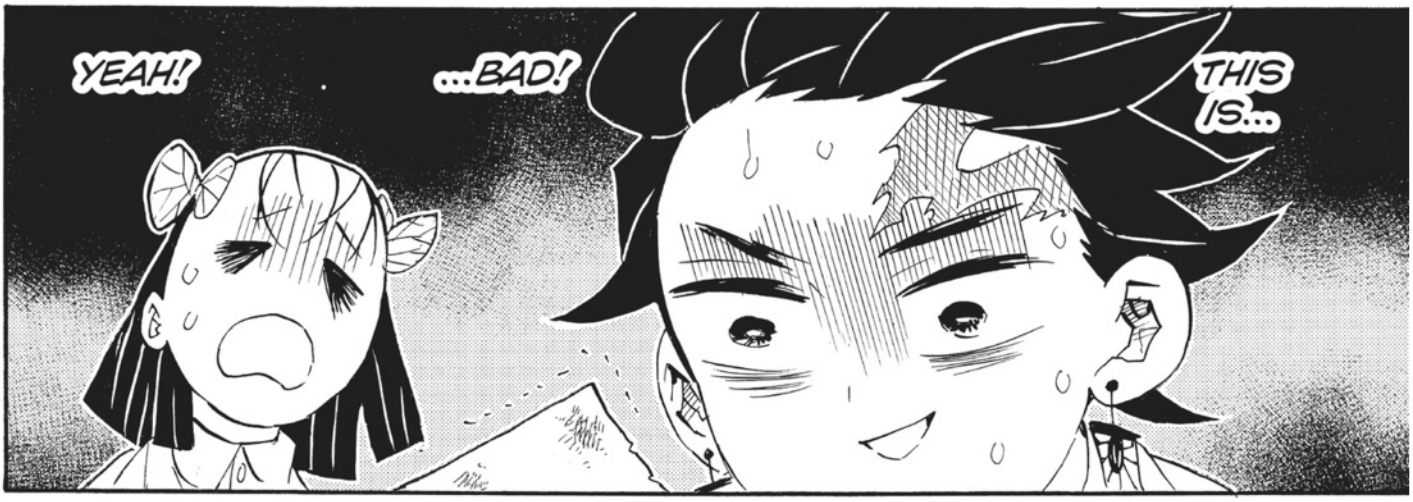
SMUSH
KNEAD
URGH! HOW FRUS-TRATING!
I CAN'T STRETCH OUT FLAT!
AS EXPECTED, MY PHYSICAL STRENGTH IS SLOW TO RETURN!
KNEE
IK


WAS A KATANA DELIVERED WHILE I WAS ASLEEP? MY SWORD GOT CHIPPED.
YANK
OH YEAH...

DO...
...YOU WANNA SEE?
A LETTER CAME FROM HAGANE-ZUKA.

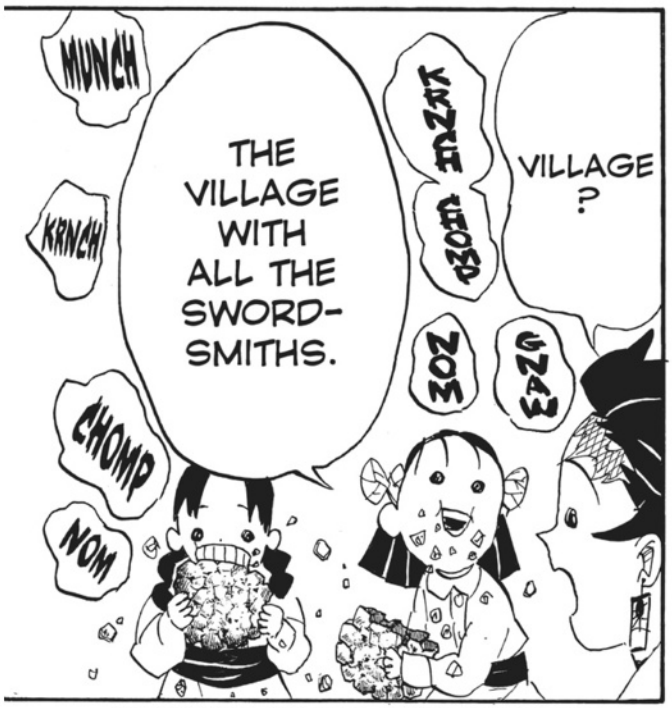
KATANA? KATANA ...?
ULP!
GACK

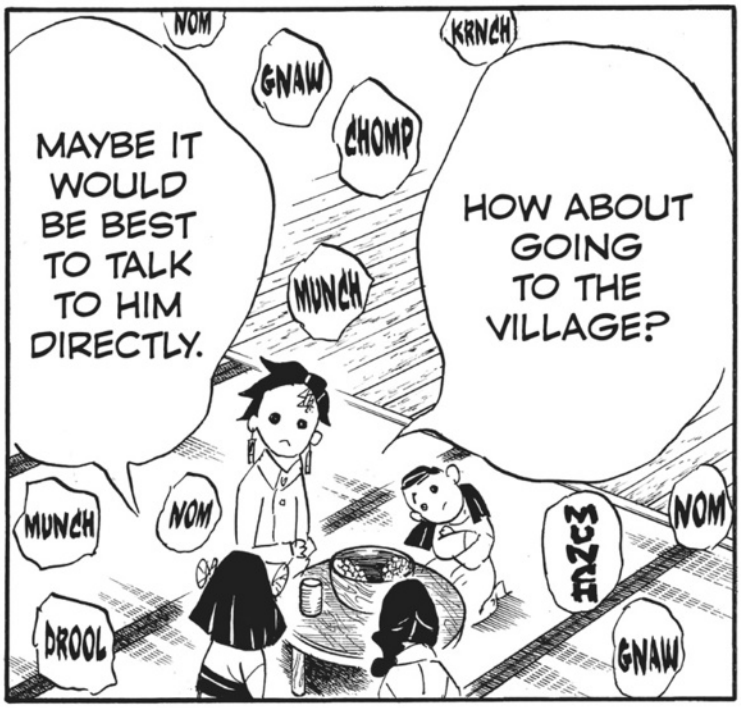
HATEFUL HATRED HATE I CURSE YOU
NEVER FORGIVE YOU. NEVER FORGIVE
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE
CURSE
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE
NEVER CURSE YOU
FORGIVE YOU
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE
NEVER FORGIVE
NO SWORD FOR YOU


YEAH!
...BAD!
THIS IS...

...BUT I BROKE IT ONCE BEFORE!
AHH... URGH...
THIS TIME IT JUST GOT CHIPPED...

O...
OHHH ...
IT'S BEEN TWO MONTHS, BUT NO KATANA CAME...

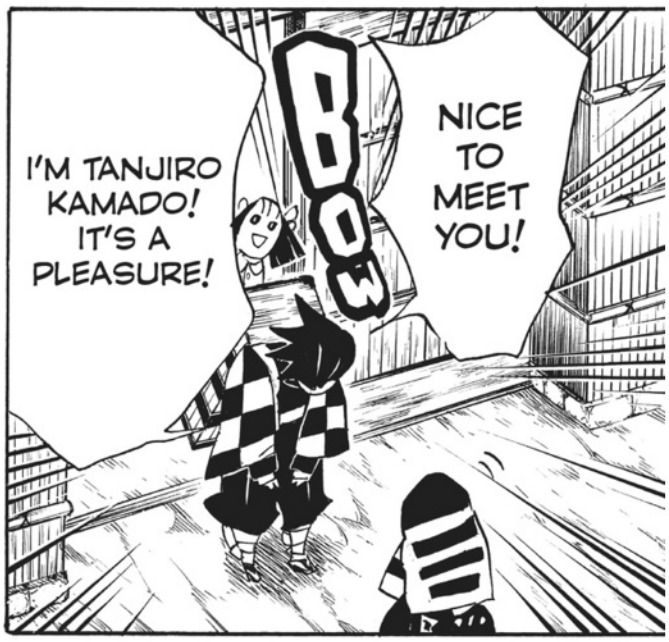




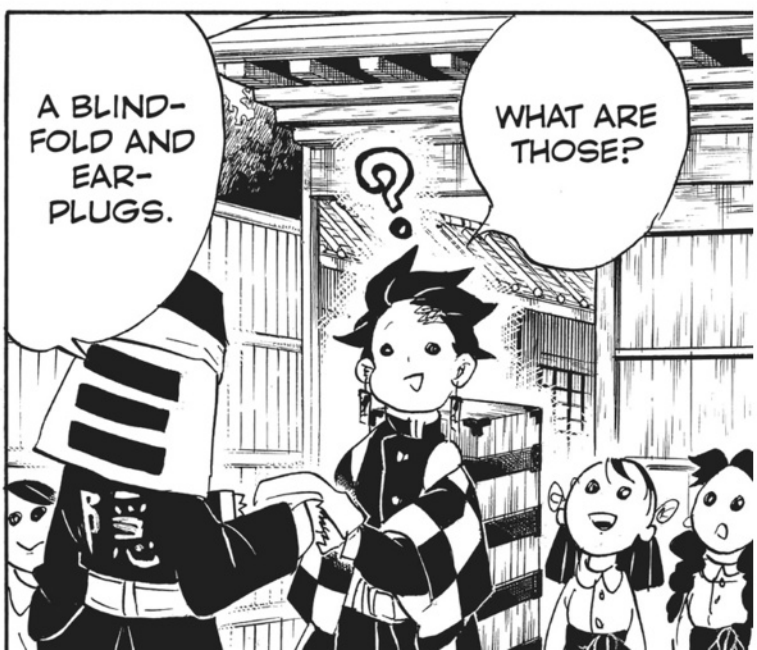
*THEY'RE EATING RICE CRACKERS.

PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE GRANTED PERMISSION, SO I WILL GUIDE YOU.

BECAUSE OF WHERE I'M GUIDING YOU, I CANNOT NAME MYSELF...
SWISH
...BUT IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.
NOW PUT THESE ON.

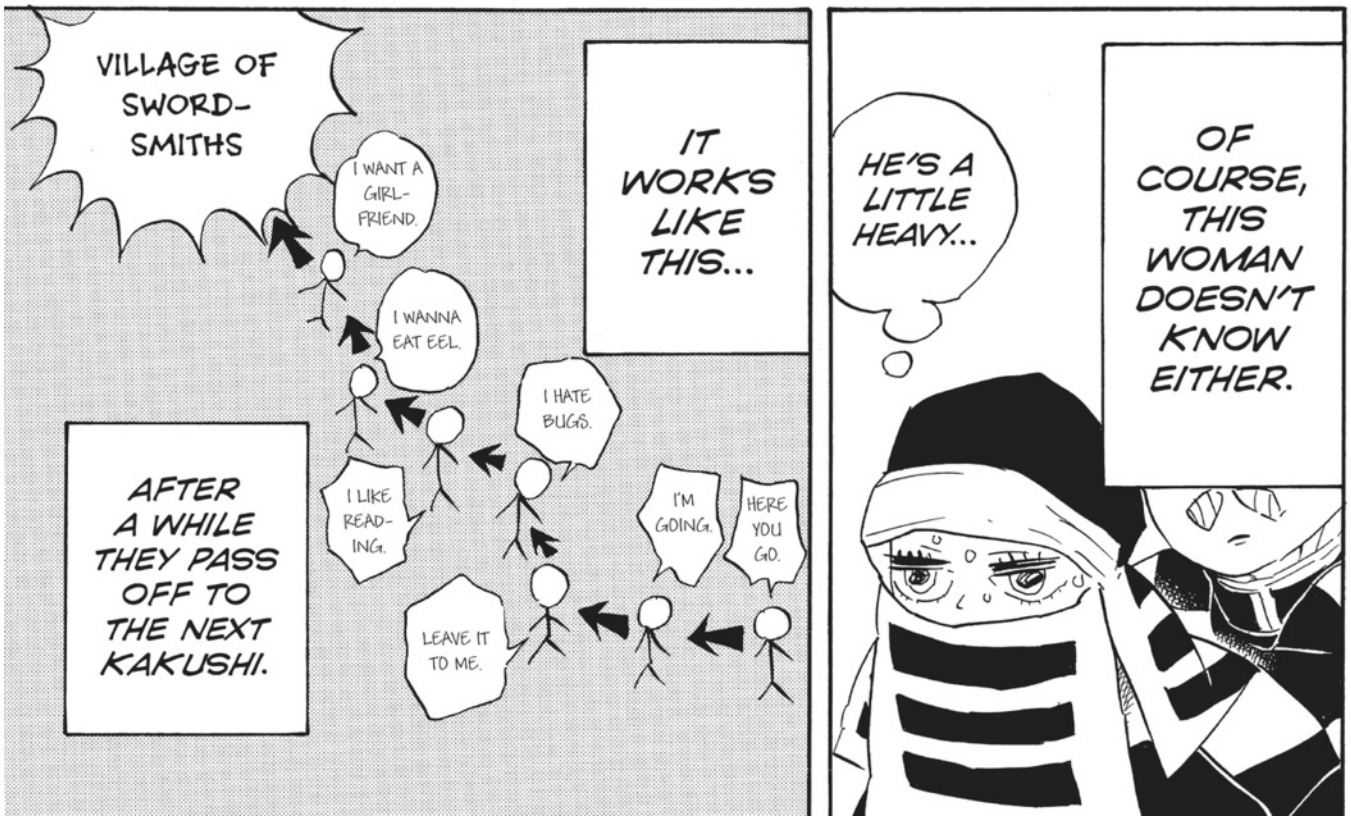

I'M TANJIRO KAMADO! IT'S A PLEASURE!
BOO
NICE TO MEET YOU!

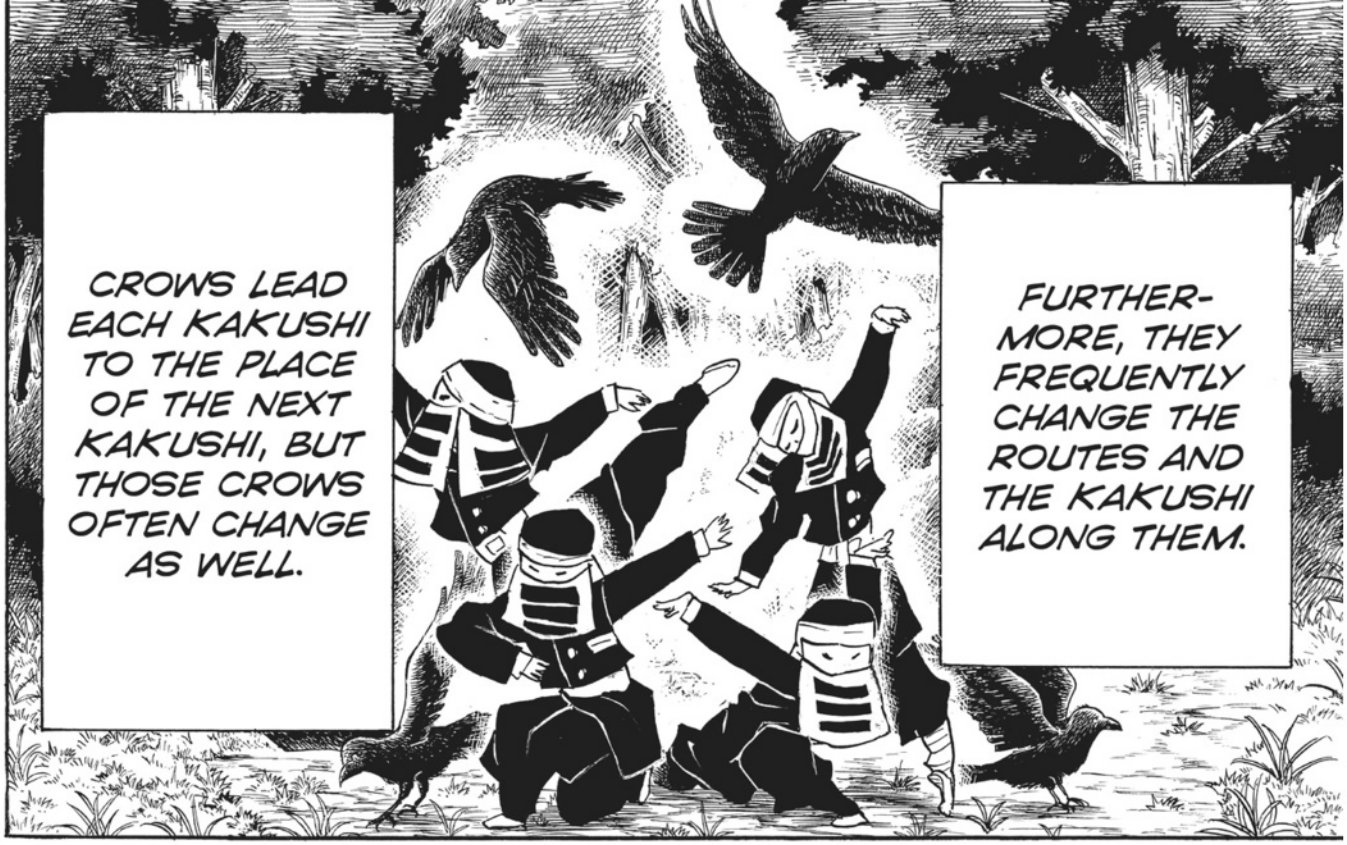
IT'S A HIDDEN VILLAGE.
FURTHERMORE, I WILL *CARRY* YOU THERE.
HUH?

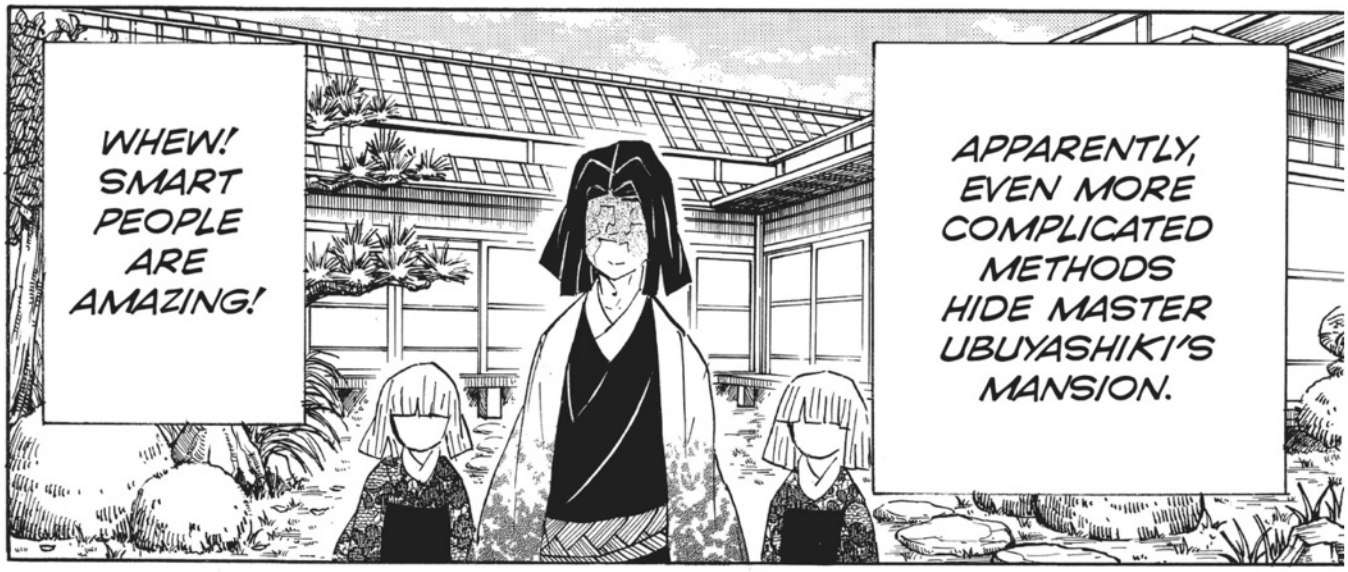

WHAT ARE THOSE?
A BLINDFOLD AND EARPLUGS.

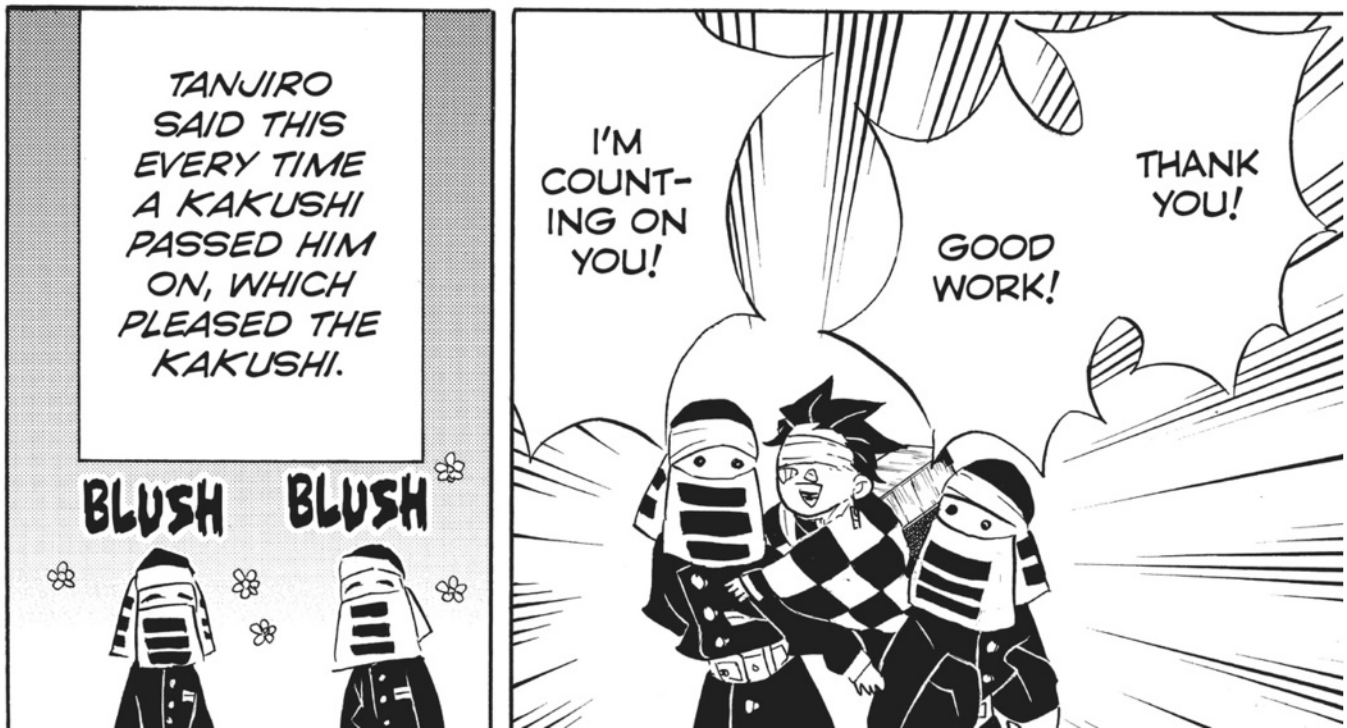
GYAH!
STUFF
ALSO, SINCE YOU HAVE A GOOD SENSE OF SMELL— NOSE PLUGS!

IN ORDER TO PREVENT DEMONS FROM ATTACKING THE VILLAGE, NO ONE KNOWS ITS LOCATION.
BEFORE PLUG-GING MY EARS, SHE BRIEFLY EXPLAINED.

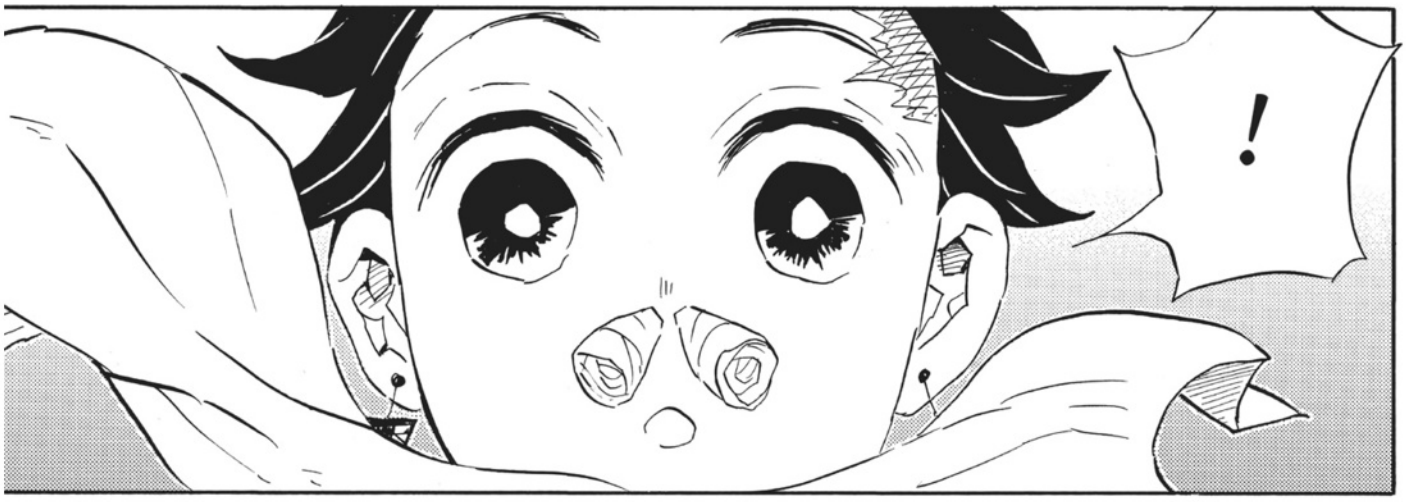

VILLAGE OF SWORD-SMITHS
I WANT A GIRL-FRIEND.
I WANNA EAT EEL.
I HATE BUGS.
I LIKE READ-ING.
I'M GOING.
HERE YOU GO.
LEAVE IT TO ME.
IT WORKS LIKE THIS...
AFTER A WHILE THEY PASS OFF TO THE NEXT KAKUSHI.
HE'S A LITTLE HEAVY...
OF COURSE, THIS WOMAN DOESN'T KNOW EITHER.


CROWS LEAD EACH KAKUSHI TO THE PLACE OF THE NEXT KAKUSHI, BUT THOSE CROWS OFTEN CHANGE AS WELL.
FURTHER-MORE, THEY FREQUENTLY CHANGE THE ROUTES AND THE KAKUSHI ALONG THEM.


WHEW! SMART PEOPLE ARE AMAZING!
APPARENTLY, EVEN MORE COMPLICATED METHODS HIDE MASTER UBUYASHIKI'S MANSION.

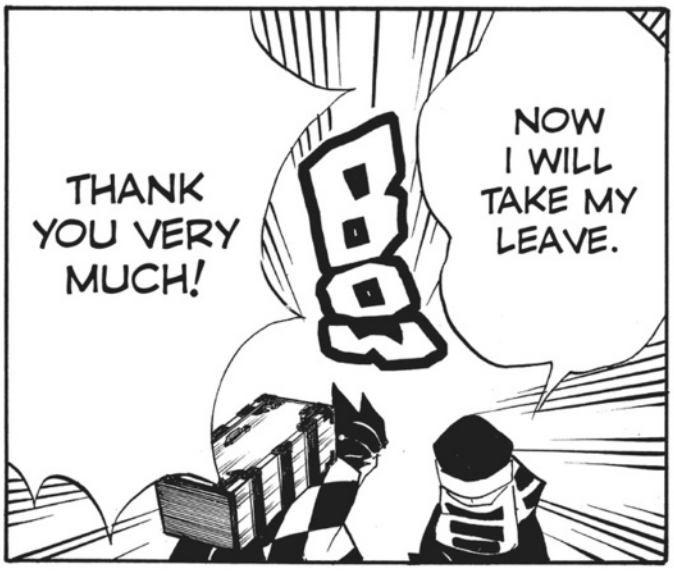

TANJIRO SAID THIS EVERY TIME A KAKUSHI PASSED HIM ON, WHICH PLEASED THE KAKUSHI.
BLUSH
BLUSH
I'M COUNT-ING ON YOU!
GOOD WORK!
THANK YOU!

I'LL TAKE IT OFF.
SHWP SHWF
KLINK
PWOP


!

WOOOOW!

IT'S LIKE THERE'S A HOT SPRING NEARBY!
WHAT INCREDIBLE BUILDINGS!
AND THIS SMELL ...
THERE IS.


THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
NOW I WILL TAKE MY LEAVE.
BOW

ALL RIGHT!
GO LEFT OVER THERE AND THAT WILL TAKE YOU TO THE CHIEF'S HOUSE. FIRST GO GREET HIM.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

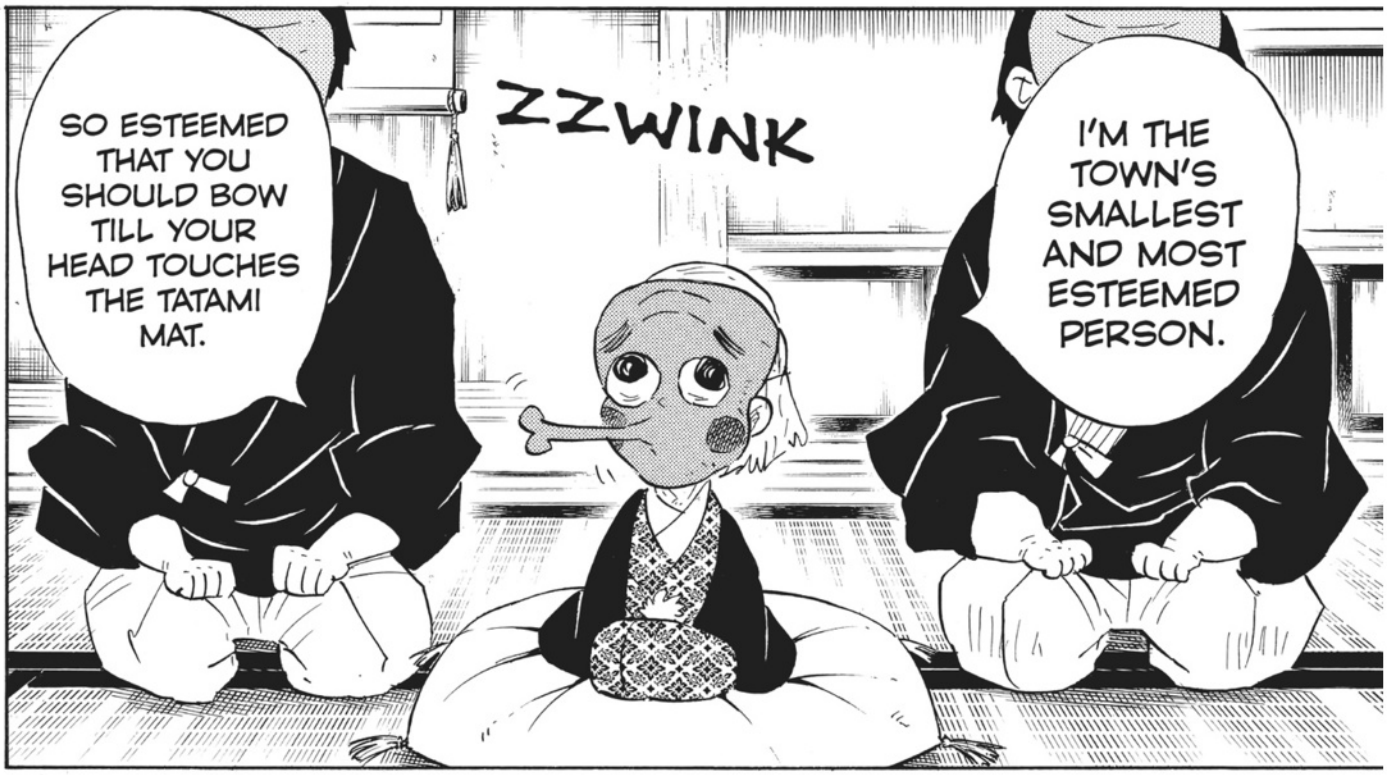
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

I HEARD WORDS OF THANKS ECHOING.
HMM?

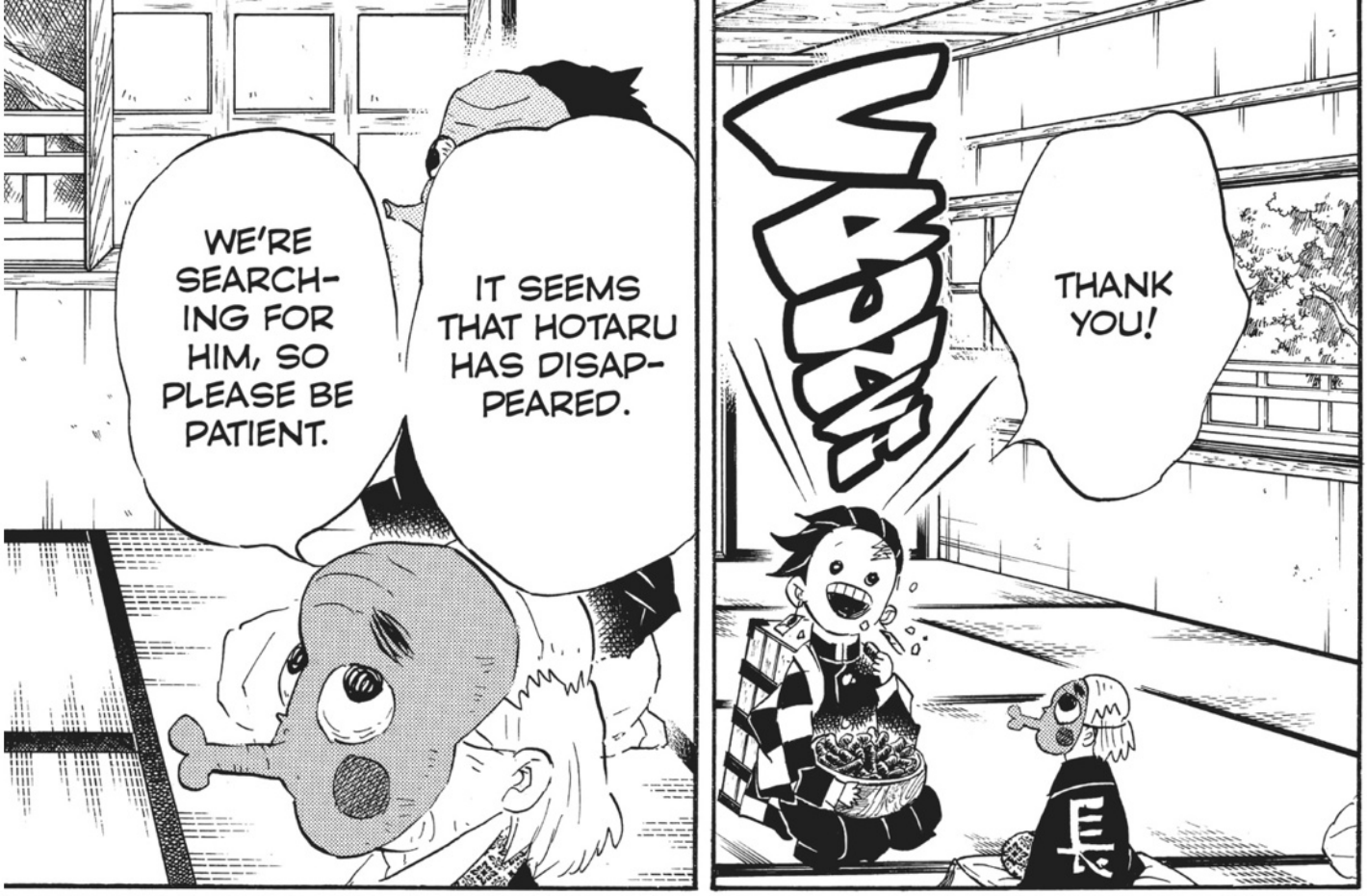
THAT GETS ME KIND OF EXCITED.
HAS SOMEONE ARRIVED?

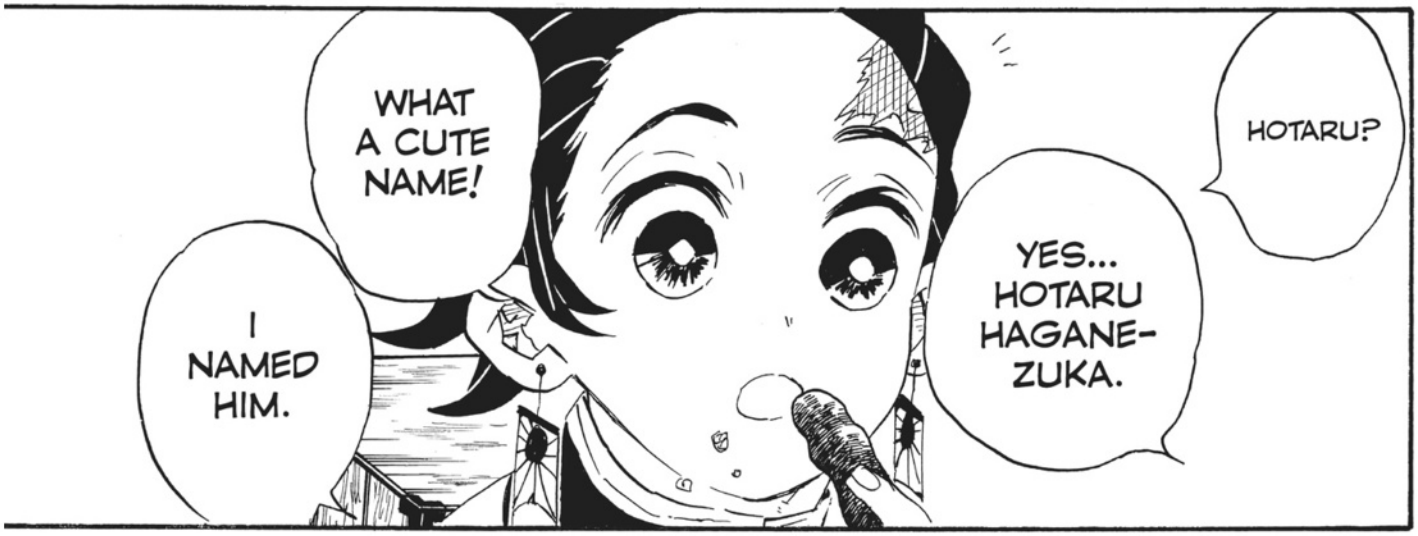
It feels good!
The hot spring here makes your skin smooth!
The hot spring heals: wounds, burns, hemorrhoids, constipation, gout, diabetes, high blood pressure, anemia, gallstones, muscle pain, joint pain, warped personality, rudeness, hay fever, itchy navel and the pain of lost love.

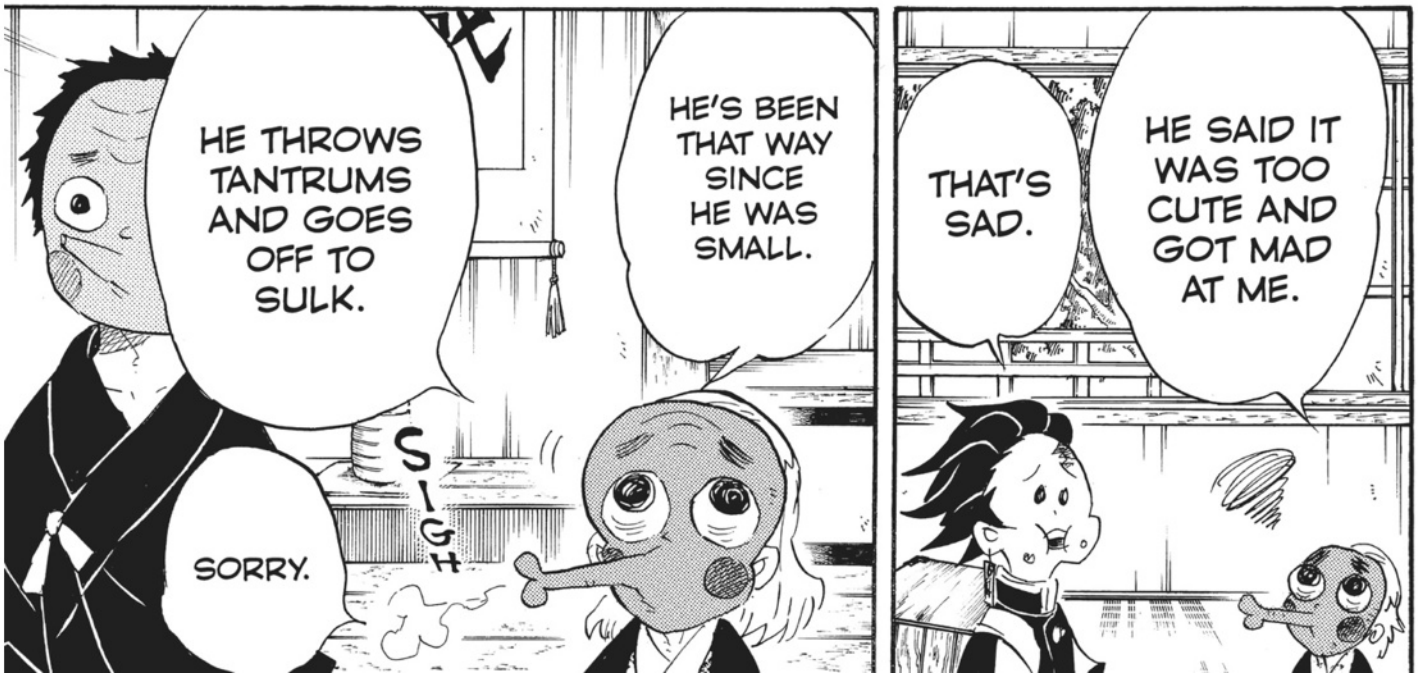
CHAPTER 101: A SECRET

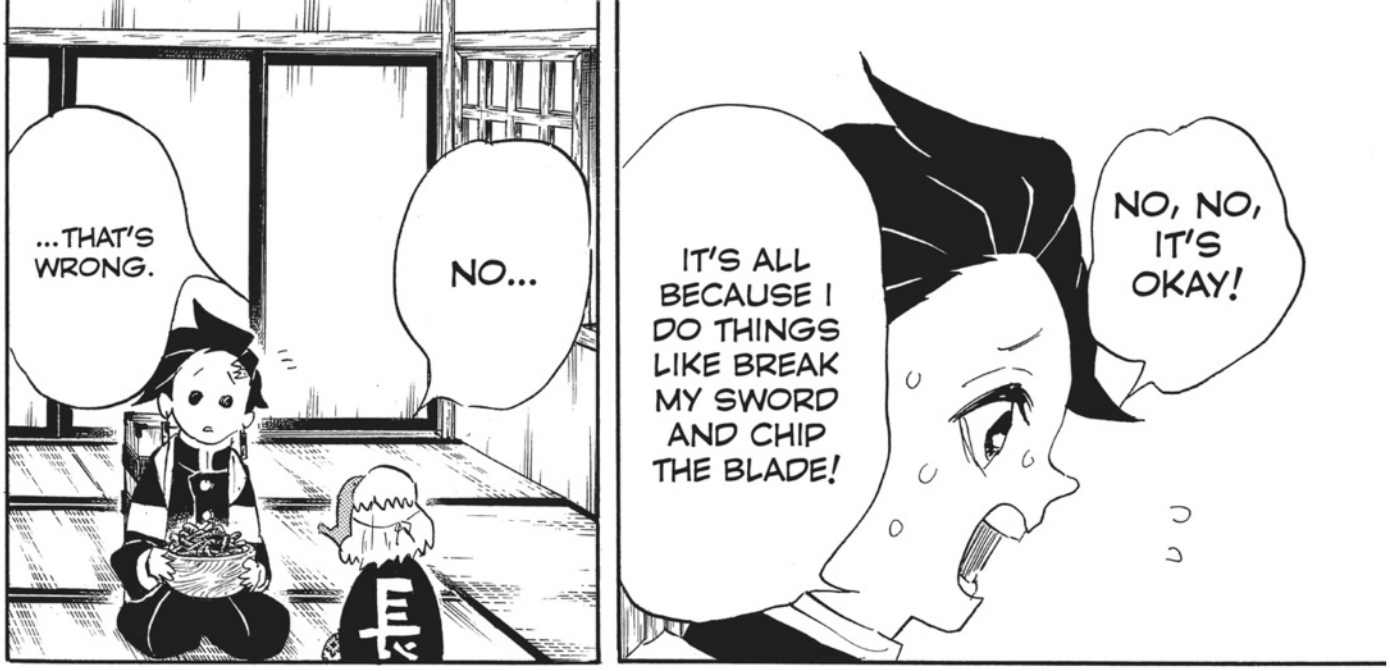

ZZWINK
SO ESTEEMED THAT YOU SHOULD BOW TILL YOUR HEAD TOUCHES THE TATAMI MAT.
I'M THE TOWN'S SMALLEST AND MOST ESTEEMED PERSON.

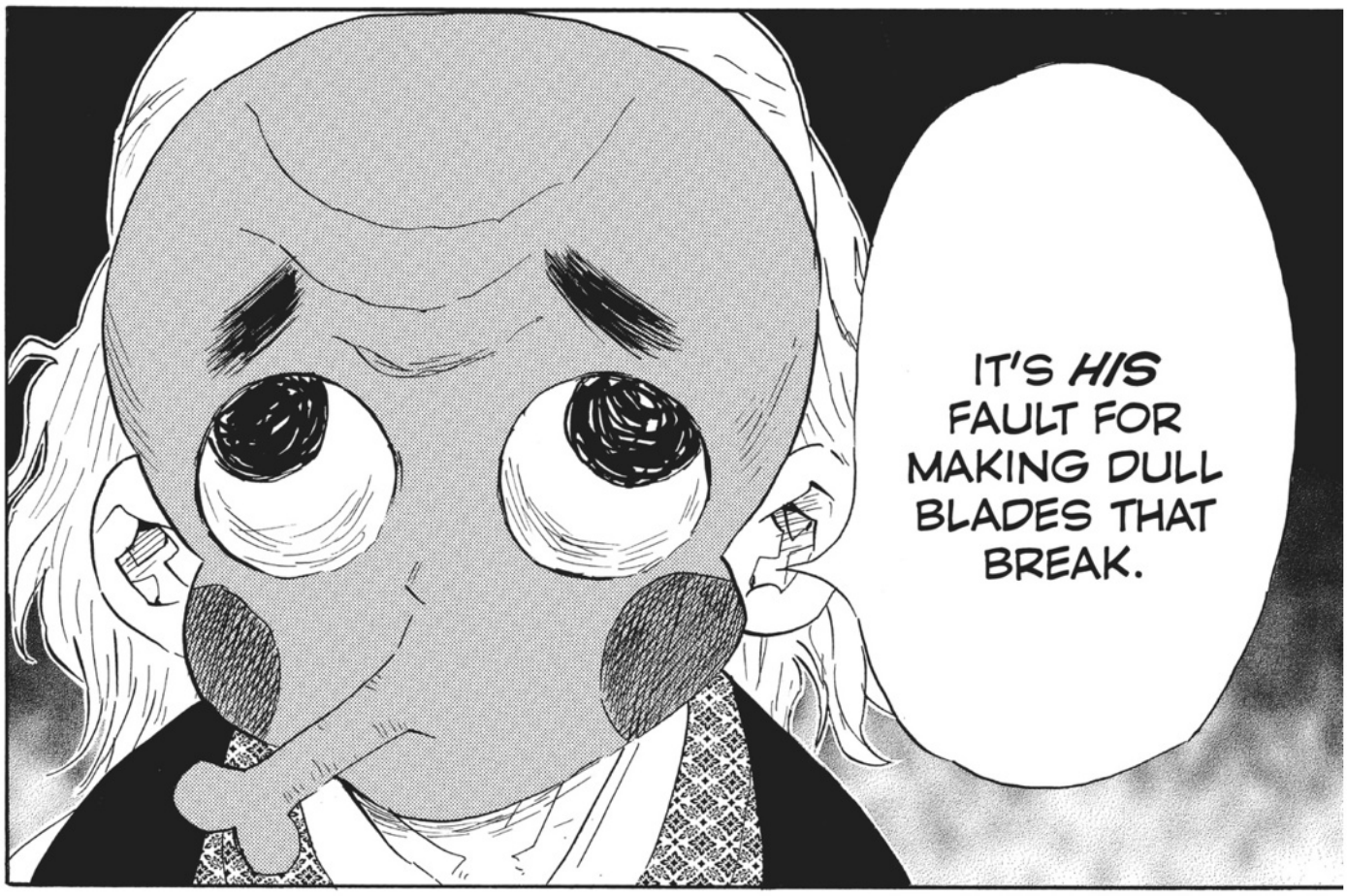
*A JAPANESE SNACK


IT SEEMS THAT HOTARU HAS DISAP-PEARED.
WE'RE SEARCH-ING FOR HIM, SO PLEASE BE PATIENT.
THANK YOU!


HOTARU?
YES... HOTARU HAGANE-ZUKA.
WHAT A CUTE NAME!
I NAMED HIM.

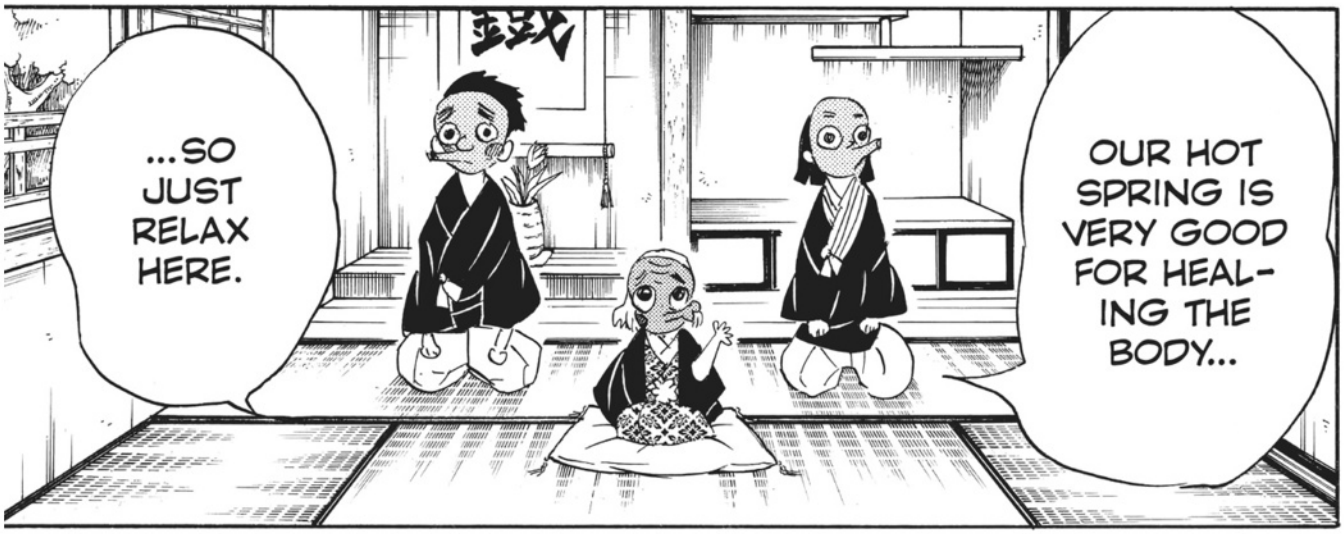

HE SAID IT WAS TOO CUTE AND GOT MAD AT ME.
THAT'S SAD.
HE'S BEEN THAT WAY SINCE HE WAS SMALL.
HE THROWS TANTRUMS AND GOES OFF TO SULK.
SIGH
SORRY.


NO, NO, IT'S OKAY!
IT'S ALL BECAUSE I DO THINGS LIKE BREAK MY SWORD AND CHIP THE BLADE!
NO...
...THAT'S WRONG.


IT'S *HIS* FAULT FOR MAKING DULL BLADES THAT BREAK.

GULP
GULP
...
...SO DON'T WORRY.
FWSH
UH-HUH!
WE'LL BRING HIM BACK AS SOON AS WE FIND HIM...

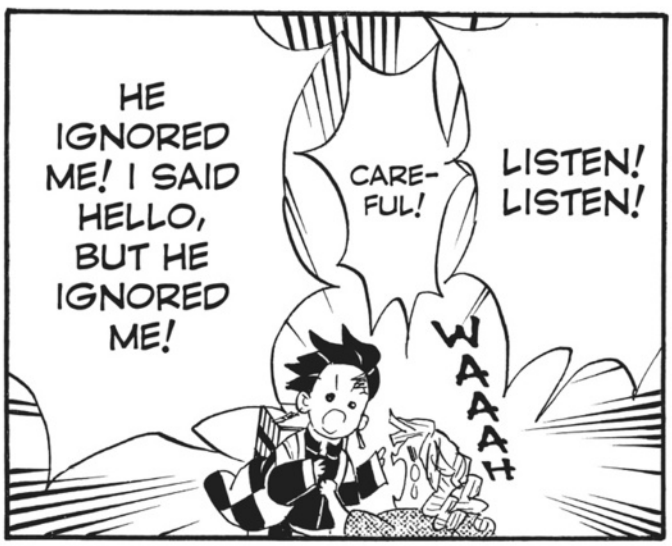
IF HOTARU DOESN'T FORGE YOU A SWORD BY THE TIME YOU'RE READY, I'LL APPOINT SOMEONE ELSE TO BE YOUR SWORDSMITH.
I HEARD YOU HAVEN'T YET RECOVERED ENOUGH TO GO DEMON SLAYING.
WELL, DON'T BE TOO ROUGH.

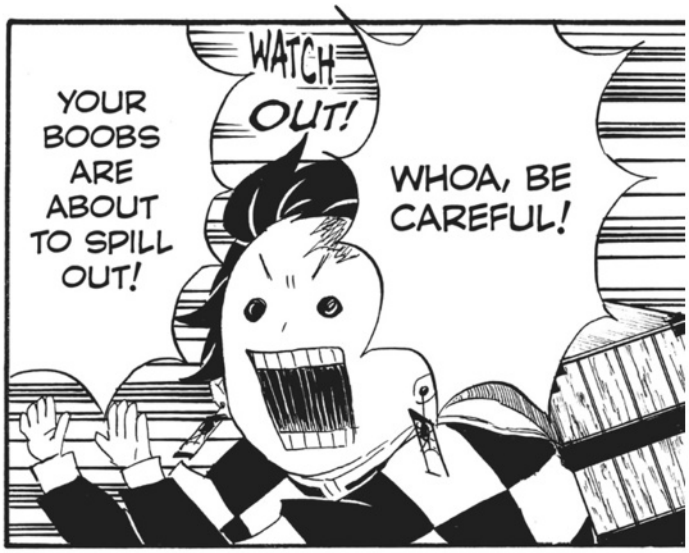

...SO JUST RELAX HERE.
OUR HOT SPRING IS VERY GOOD FOR HEAL-ING THE BODY...

*SIGNS: BATH

I'LL BE DOWN HERE PREPAR-ING YOUR MEAL.
THE HOT SPRING IS UP THIS HILL.
湯
湯
湯
OKAY!
TMP TMP
I HOPE THEY DON'T FIGHT.

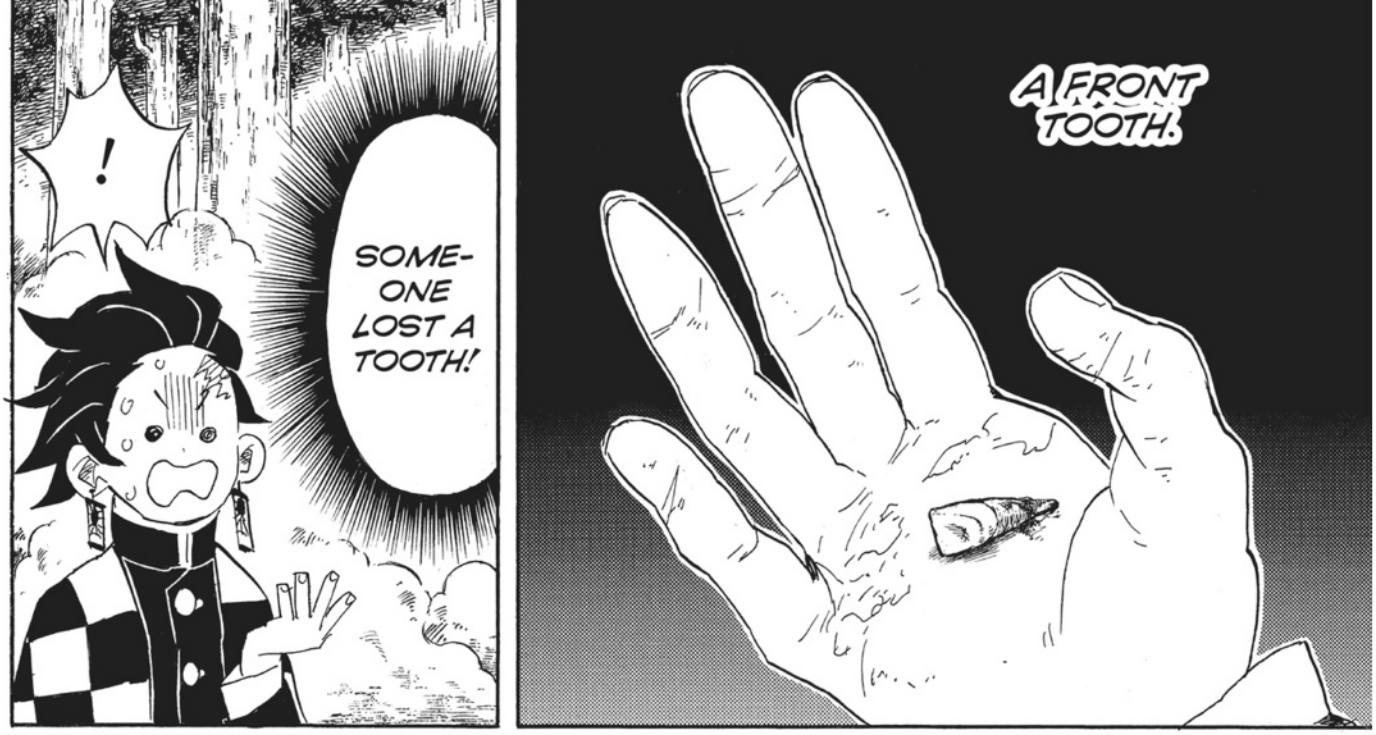
TANJIROOO!
OHHH! IT'S TANJIRO!


HE IGNORED ME! I SAID HELLO, BUT HE IGNORED ME!
CARE-FUL!
LISTEN! LISTEN!
WAAAH


YOUR BOOBS ARE ABOUT TO SPILL OUT!
WATCH OUT!
WHOA, BE CAREFUL!

ISN'T THAT MEAN? I'M A HASHIRA!
WAAH
FLAP FLAP
I ASKED HIS NAME BUT HE IGNORED ME!
I DON'T KNOW!
WHO DID?

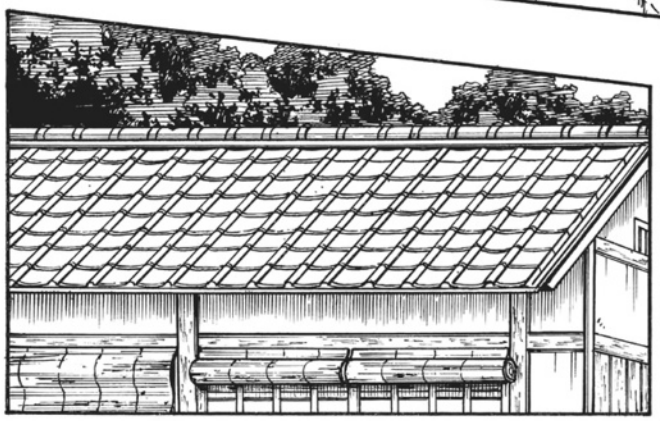
WELL, SUPPER WILL BE READY SOON. I HEAR IT'LL BE RICE WITH MATSUTAKE MUSHROOMS.
SOB SOB SOB
THE CALM I GOT FROM SOAKING IS COMPLETELY SHATTERED!
YOOO
WHOA! REALLY?!
PONK
OW!
WOW! IT'S HUGE!
AT THE HOT SPRING...
WHAT'S THAT FLAPPING IN FRONT OF THE HORSE?
MIYA-SAN, MIYA-SAN!
SHE'S A BIG EATER!


!
SOME-ONE LOST A TOOTH!
A FRONT TOOTH.

SUMI SAID HIS NAME IS...
That man is...
HIS HEAD IS SHAVED ON THE SIDES...!

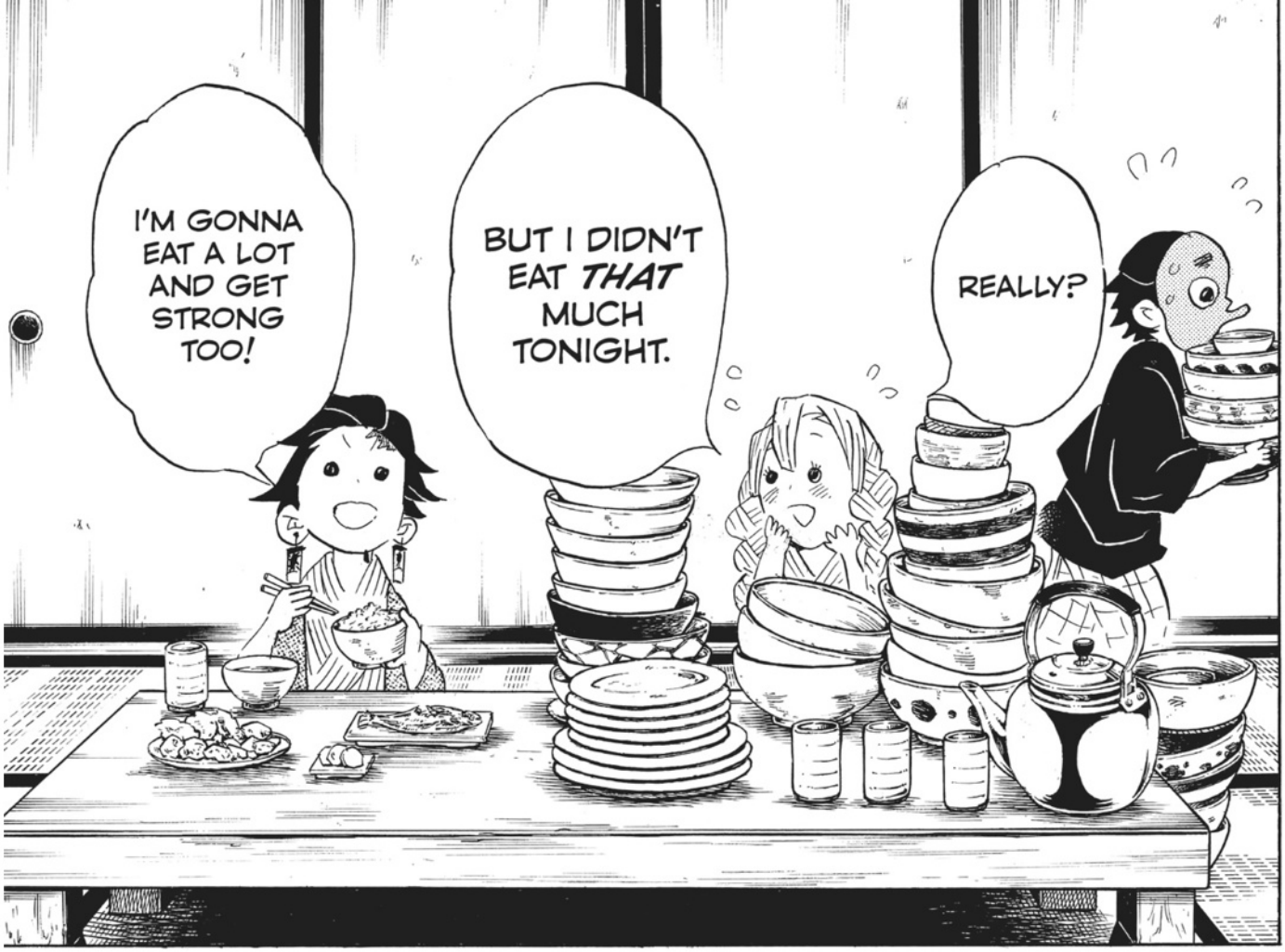
DIE!
GENYA SHINAZU-GAWA!
HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?!
LONG TIME NO SEE!
YOUR LAST NAME IS THE SAME AS THE WIND HASHIRA!
TOSS
TOSS
CAW!
SPLOOSH
SLASH

DON'T TALK TO ME!

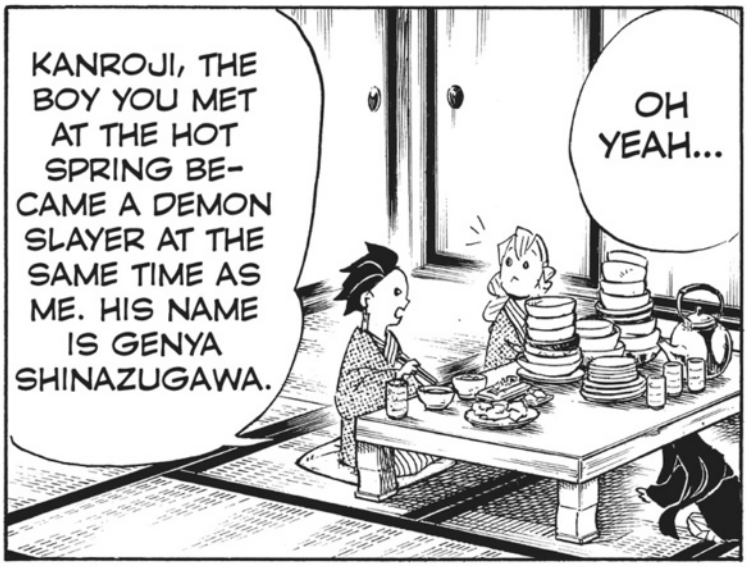


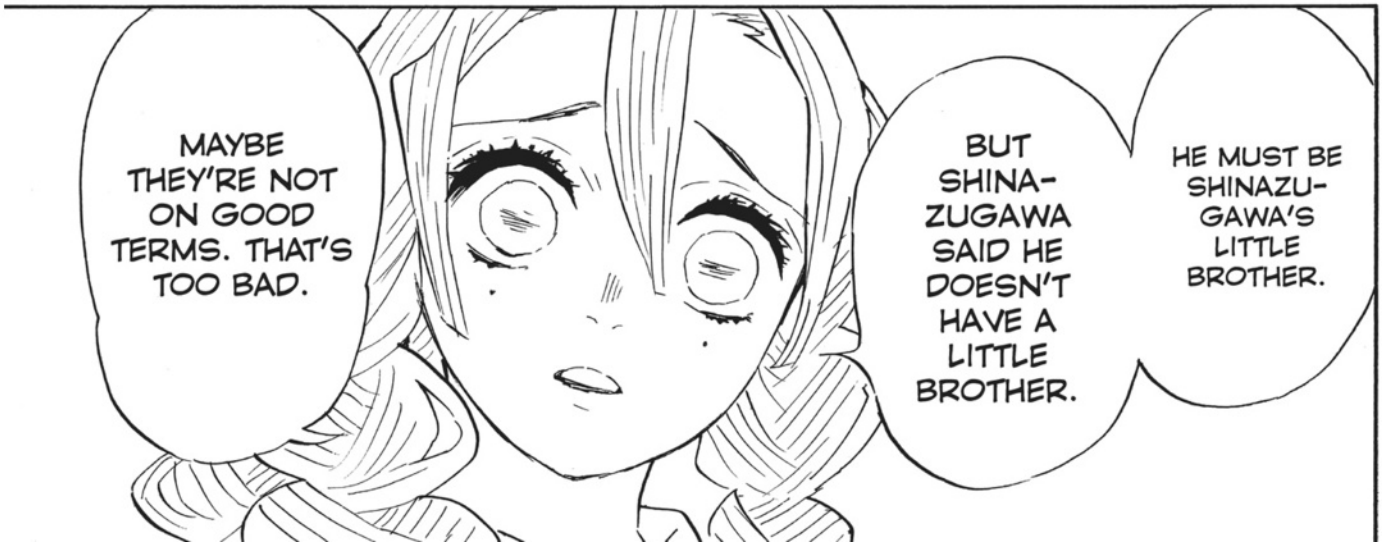
I THOUGHT SOAKING TOGETHER WOULD BRING US CLOSER, BUT...
...HUMAN RELATIONS ARE DIFFICULT.

IMPRESSIVE!


I'M GONNA EAT A LOT AND GET STRONG TOO!
BUT I DIDN'T EAT *THAT* MUCH TONIGHT.
REALLY?

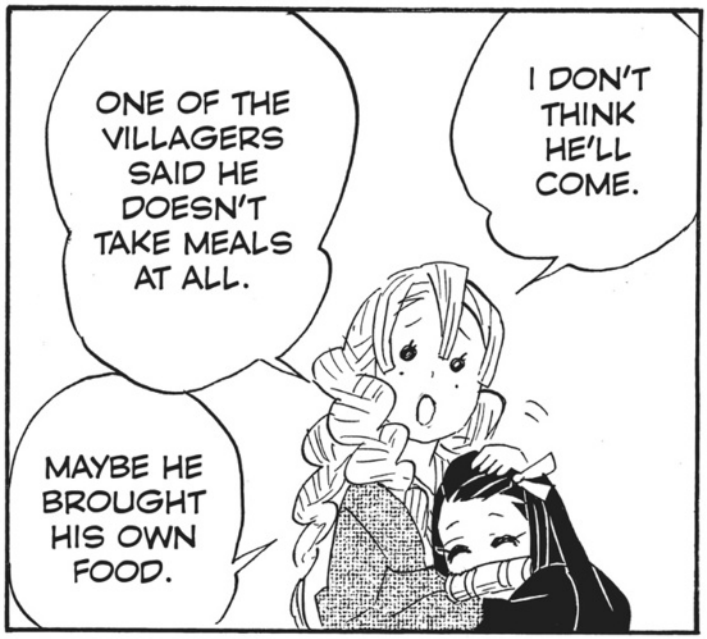
YOU DON'T SAY!
OH!


KANROJI, THE BOY YOU MET AT THE HOT SPRING BE-CAME A DEMON SLAYER AT THE SAME TIME AS ME. HIS NAME IS GENYA SHINAZUGAWA.
OH YEAH...


MAYBE THEY'RE NOT ON GOOD TERMS. THAT'S TOO BAD.
BUT SHINA-ZUGAWA SAID HE DOESN'T HAVE A LITTLE BROTHER.
HE MUST BE SHINAZU-GAWA'S LITTLE BROTHER.

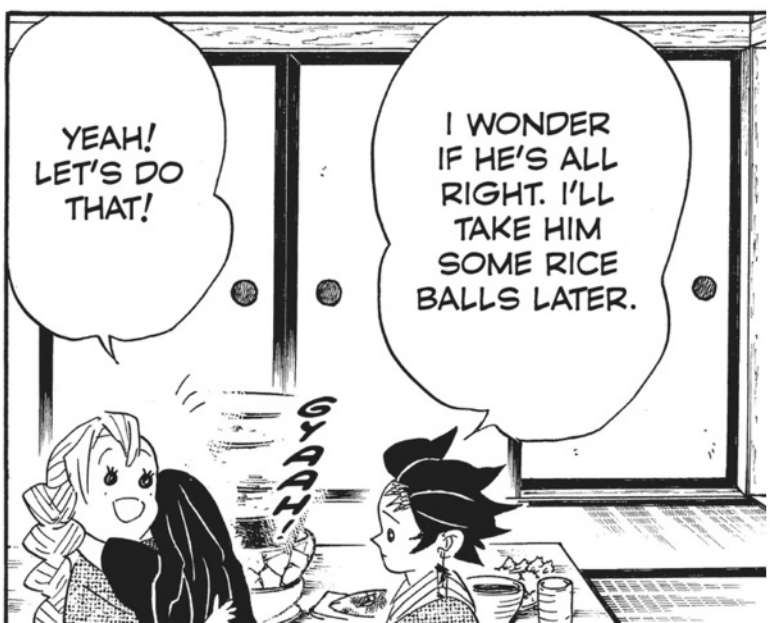
I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHY, BUT I FIND BOTH THE SHINAZUGAWA BROTHERS SCARY.
TICKLE TICKLE
THERE ARE FIVE KIDS IN MY FAMILY, AND WE ALL GET ALONG.
MMPH MMPH

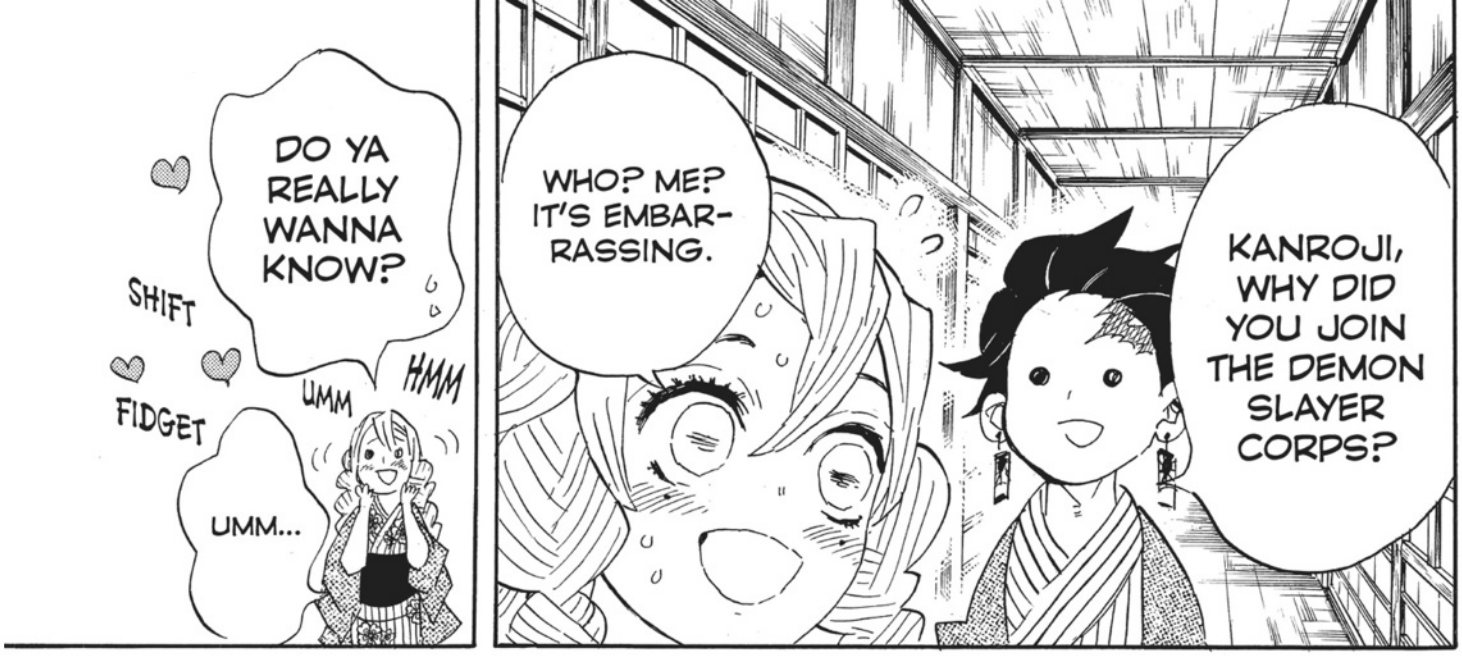
I WONDER WHY.
OH, REALLY?
PEEK

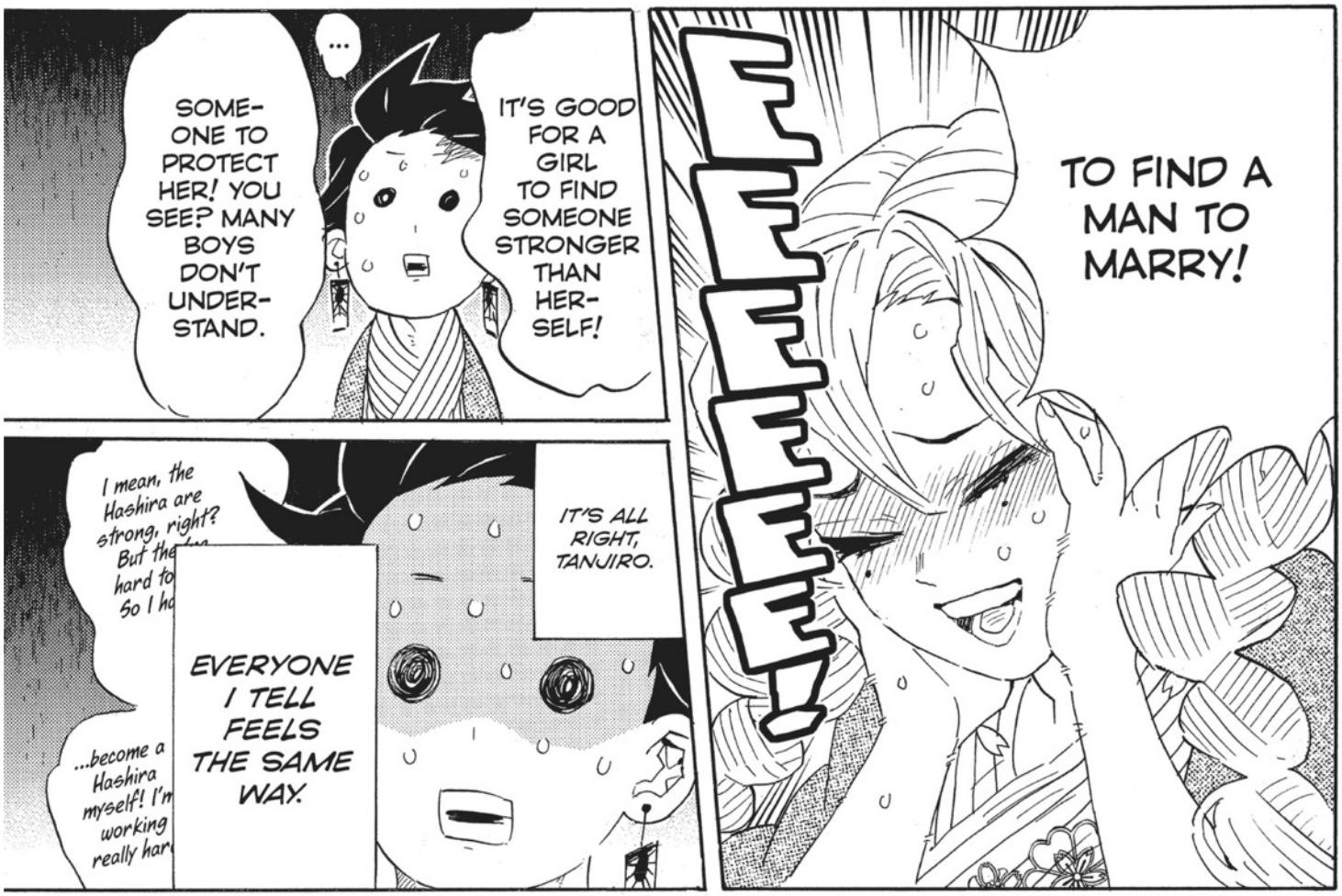

ONE OF THE VILLAGERS SAID HE DOESN'T TAKE MEALS AT ALL.
I DON'T THINK HE'LL COME.
MAYBE HE BROUGHT HIS OWN FOOD.

IT WOULD BE NICE TO TALK TO HIM AT LEAST A LITTLE.
GENYA HASN'T COME YET, HUH?
How cute!

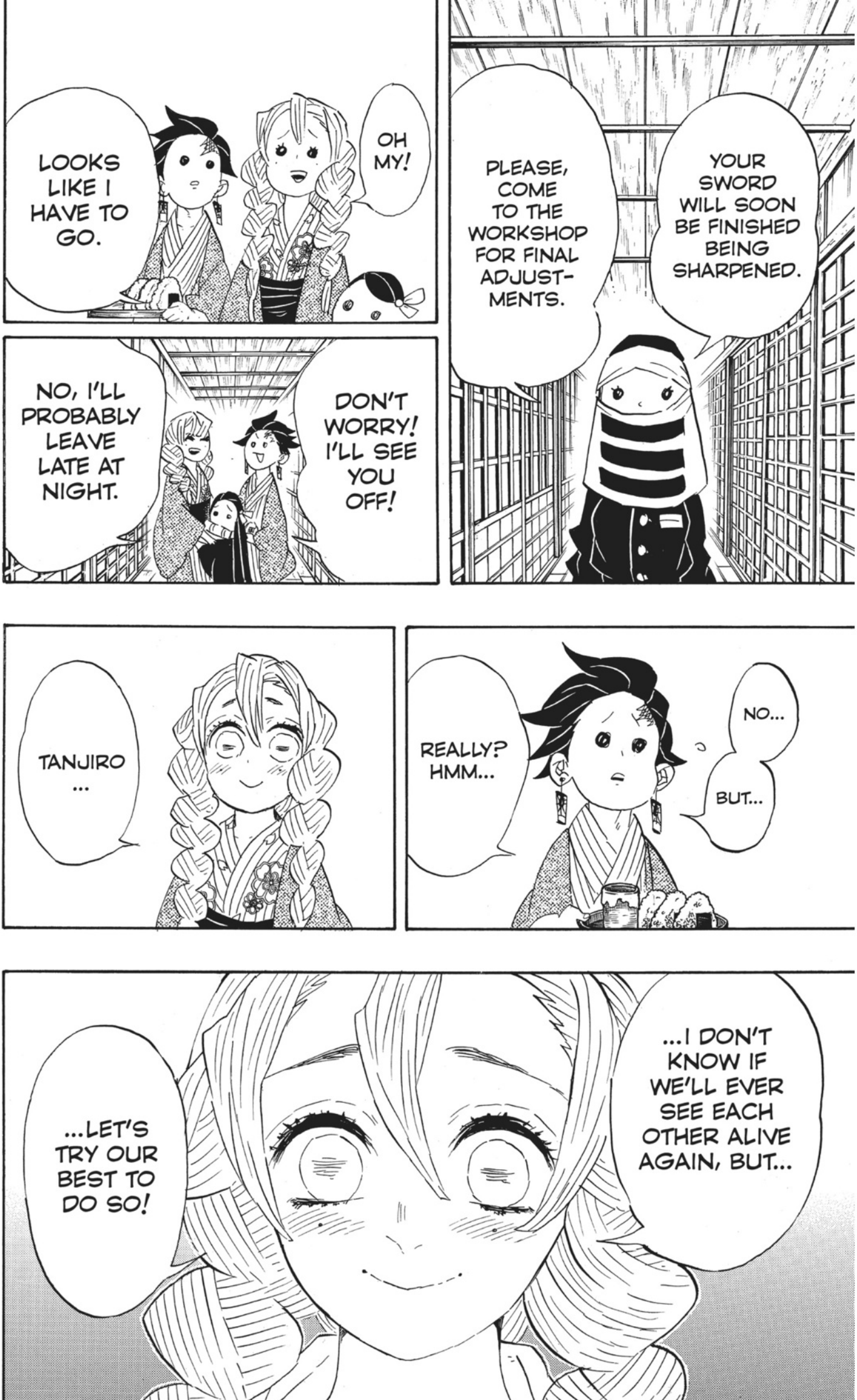
HEY-YA-HEY-YA-HEY!
...SAYING CONQUER THE EMPEROR'S ENEMY!
DIDN'T YOU KNOW IT'S A BROCADE STANDARD ...

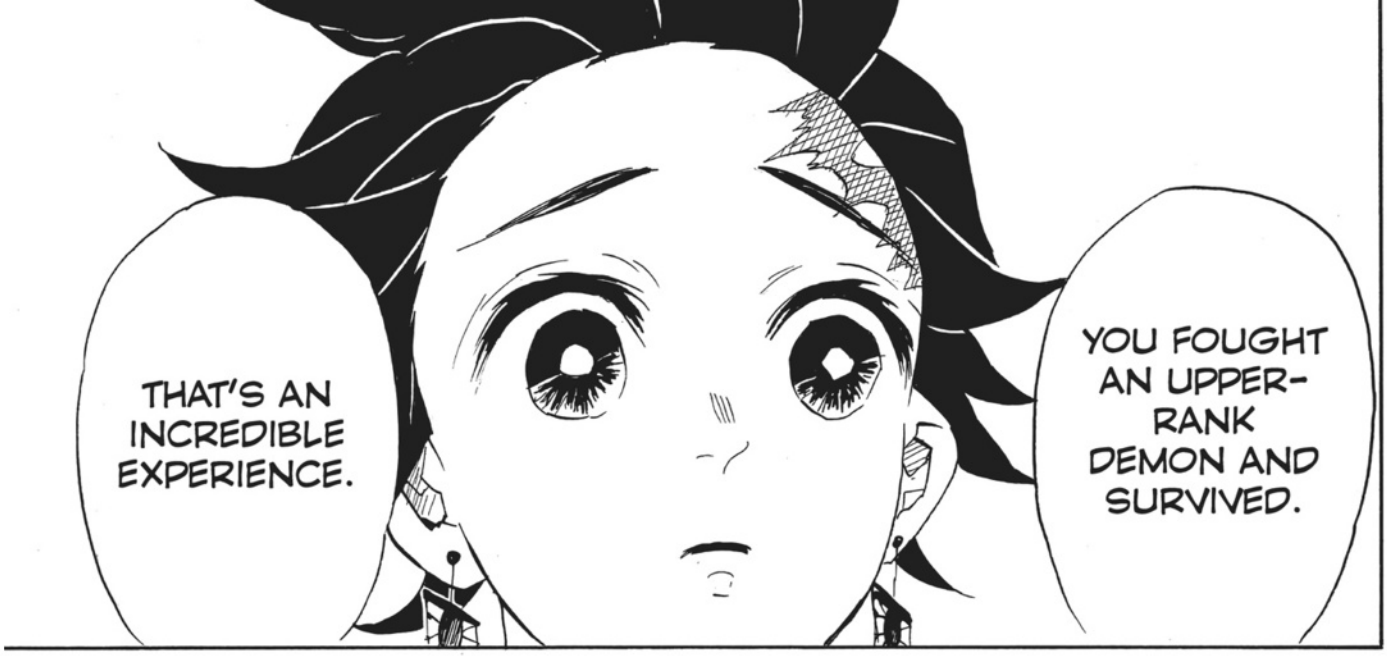

YEAH! LET'S DO THAT!
I WONDER IF HE'S ALL RIGHT. I'LL TAKE HIM SOME RICE BALLS LATER.
GYAAH!

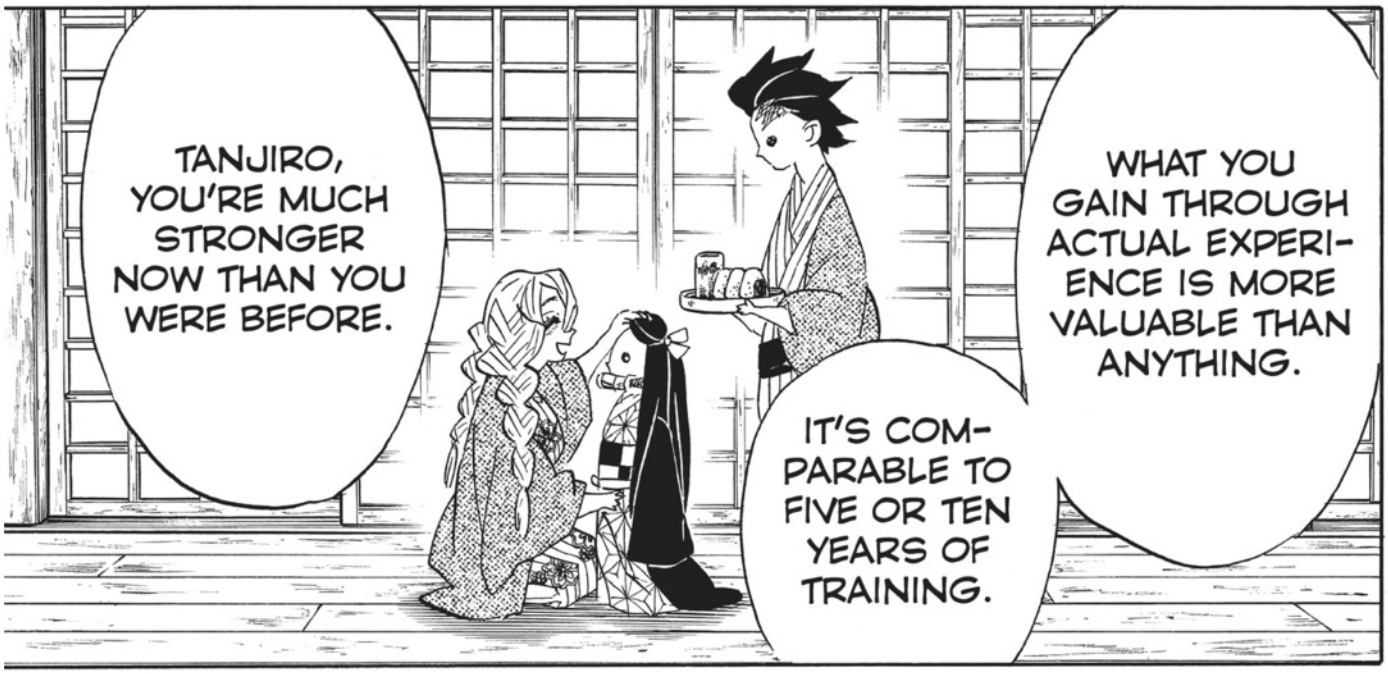

KANROJI, WHY DID YOU JOIN THE DEMON SLAYER CORPS?
WHO? ME? IT'S EMBARRASSING.
DO YA REALLY WANNA KNOW?
SHIFT
FIDGET
UMM
HMM
UMM...

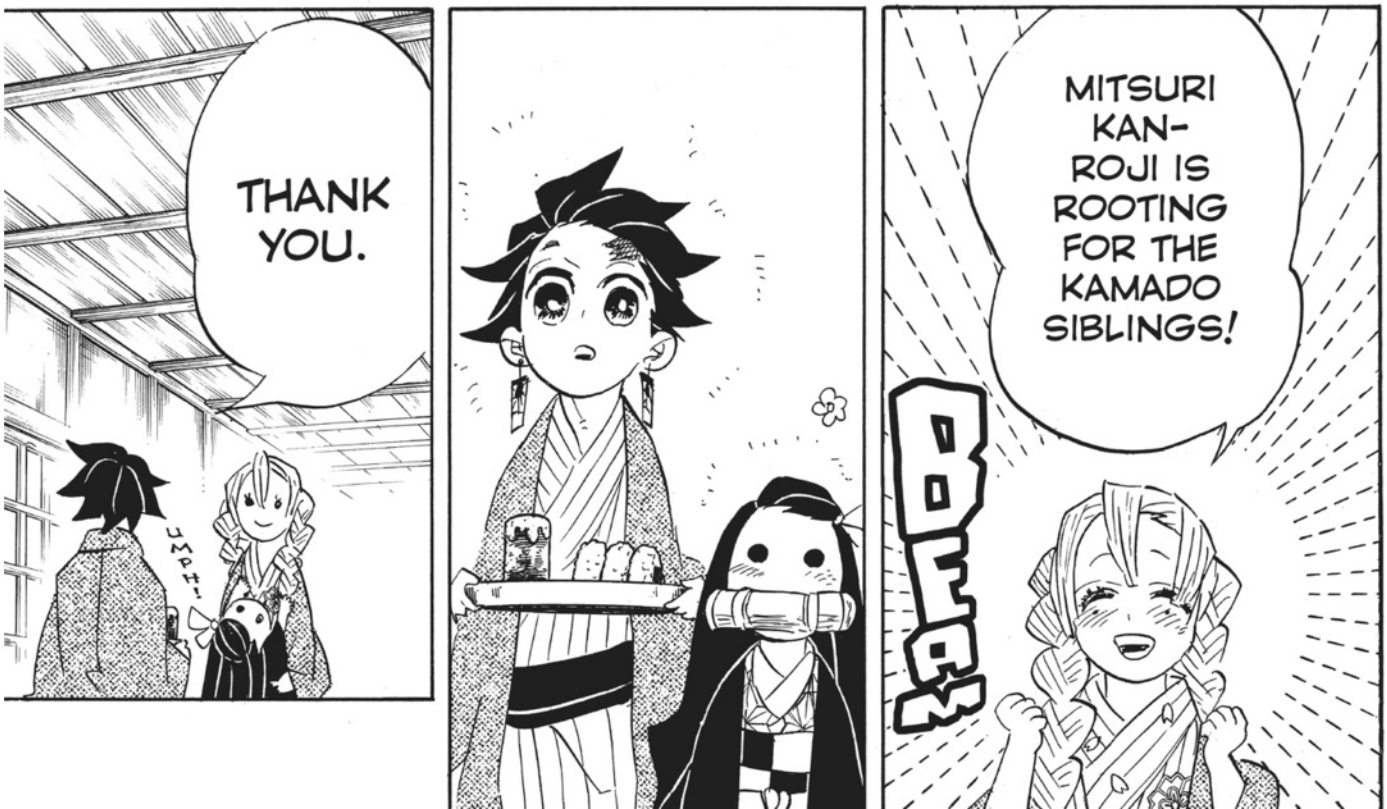

TO FIND A MAN TO MARRY!
EEEEEEE!!
IT'S GOOD FOR A GIRL TO FIND SOMEONE STRONGER THAN HERSELF!
...
SOMEONE TO PROTECT HER! YOU SEE? MANY BOYS DON'T UNDERSTAND.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, TANJIRO.
EVERYONE I TELL FEELS THE SAME WAY.

GENYA ISN'T HERE.
LADY KANROJI ...

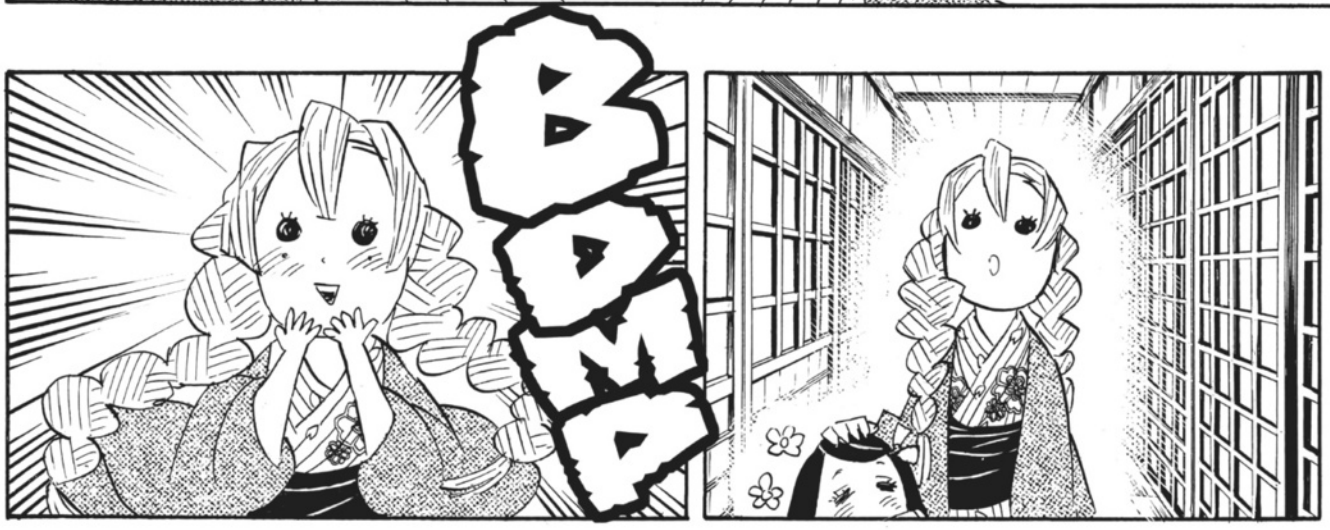

YOUR SWORD WILL SOON BE FINISHED BEING SHARPENED.
PLEASE, COME TO THE WORKSHOP FOR FINAL ADJUST-MENTS.
OH MY!
LOOKS LIKE I HAVE TO GO.
DON'T WORRY! I'LL SEE YOU OFF!
NO, I'LL PROBABLY LEAVE LATE AT NIGHT.
NO...
BUT...
REALLY? HMM...
TANJIRO ...
...I DON'T KNOW IF WE'LL EVER SEE EACH OTHER ALIVE AGAIN, BUT...
...LET'S TRY OUR BEST TO DO SO!


YOU FOUGHT AN UPPER-RANK DEMON AND SURVIVED.
THAT'S AN INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE.


WHAT YOU GAIN THROUGH ACTUAL EXPERI-ENCE IS MORE VALUABLE THAN ANYTHING.
IT'S COM-PARABLE TO FIVE OR TEN YEARS OF TRAINING.
TANJIRO, YOU'RE MUCH STRONGER NOW THAN YOU WERE BEFORE.


MITSURI KAN-ROJI IS ROOTING FOR THE KAMADO SIBLINGS!
BFAM
THANK YOU.

I'LL TRY HARDER AND HARDER...
BUT I STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO!
...TO BEAT MUZAN KIBUTSUJI HIMSELF!
UZUI JUST LET US WIN.


BAMP

SHWF
?
GLANCE
UH, YEAH. BASI-CALLY.
YOU GOT PERMISSION TO STAY A LONG TIME, RIGHT?
SHIFT
FIDGET

I HEAR THIS VILLAGE HAS A SECRET WEAPON THAT MAKES YOU STRONGER.
PSST
LOOK FOR IT, OKAY?
PSST

SEE YA!
SPURT
...

THE NEXT MORN-ING.

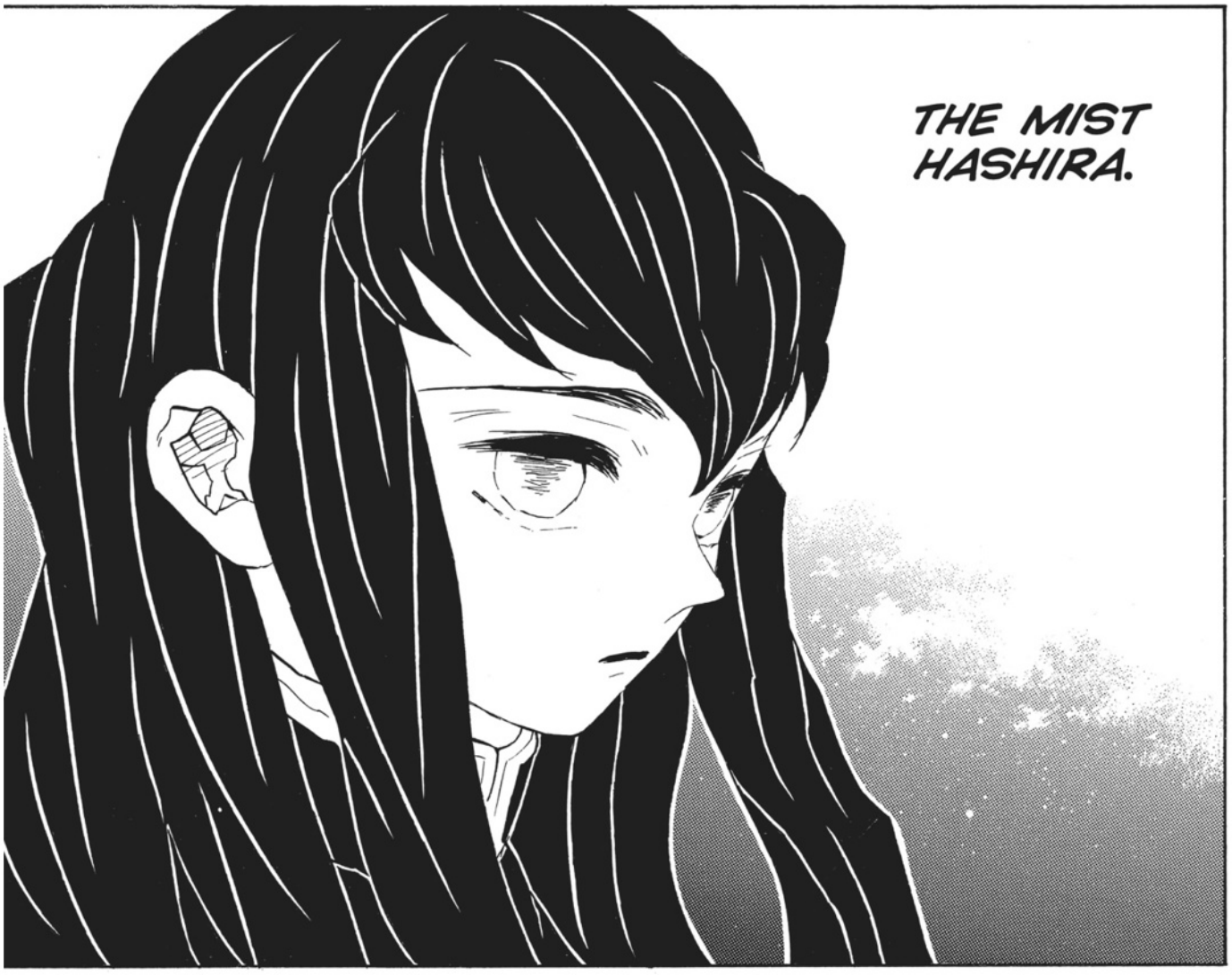
I WONDER WHAT WEAPON KANROJI WAS TALKING ABOUT.
HMM...
MAYBE A SWORD? MAYBE IT'S BURIED OR SOMETHING! THIS IS EXCITING! LIKE I'M ON A TREASURE HUNT!

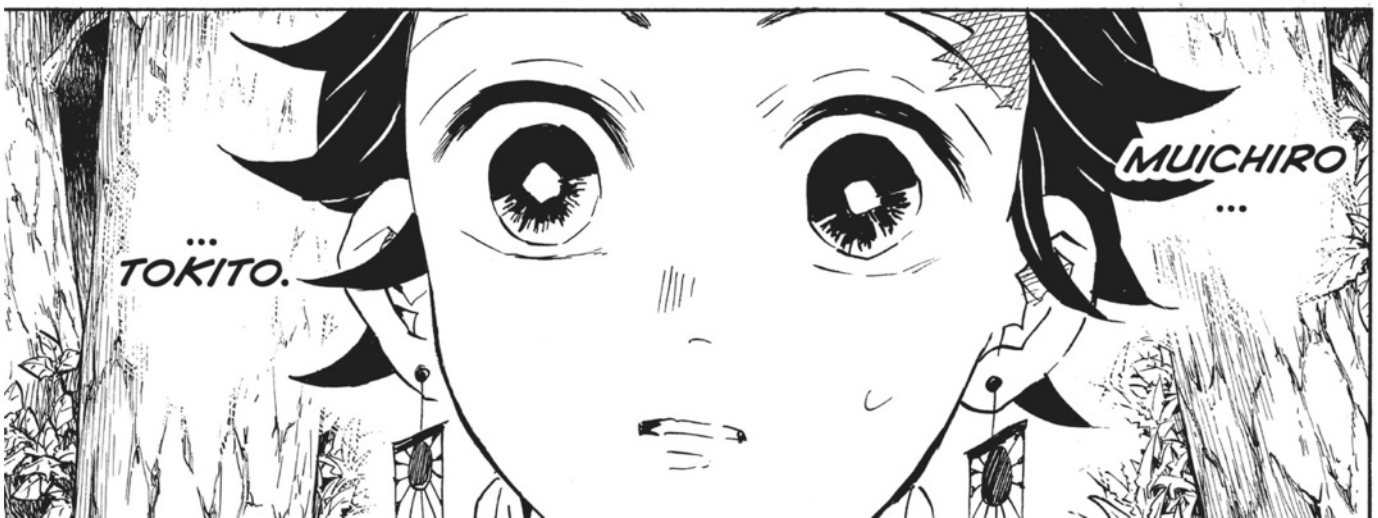
AND I WANT TO FIND HAGANE-ZUKA, BUT...
HMM?

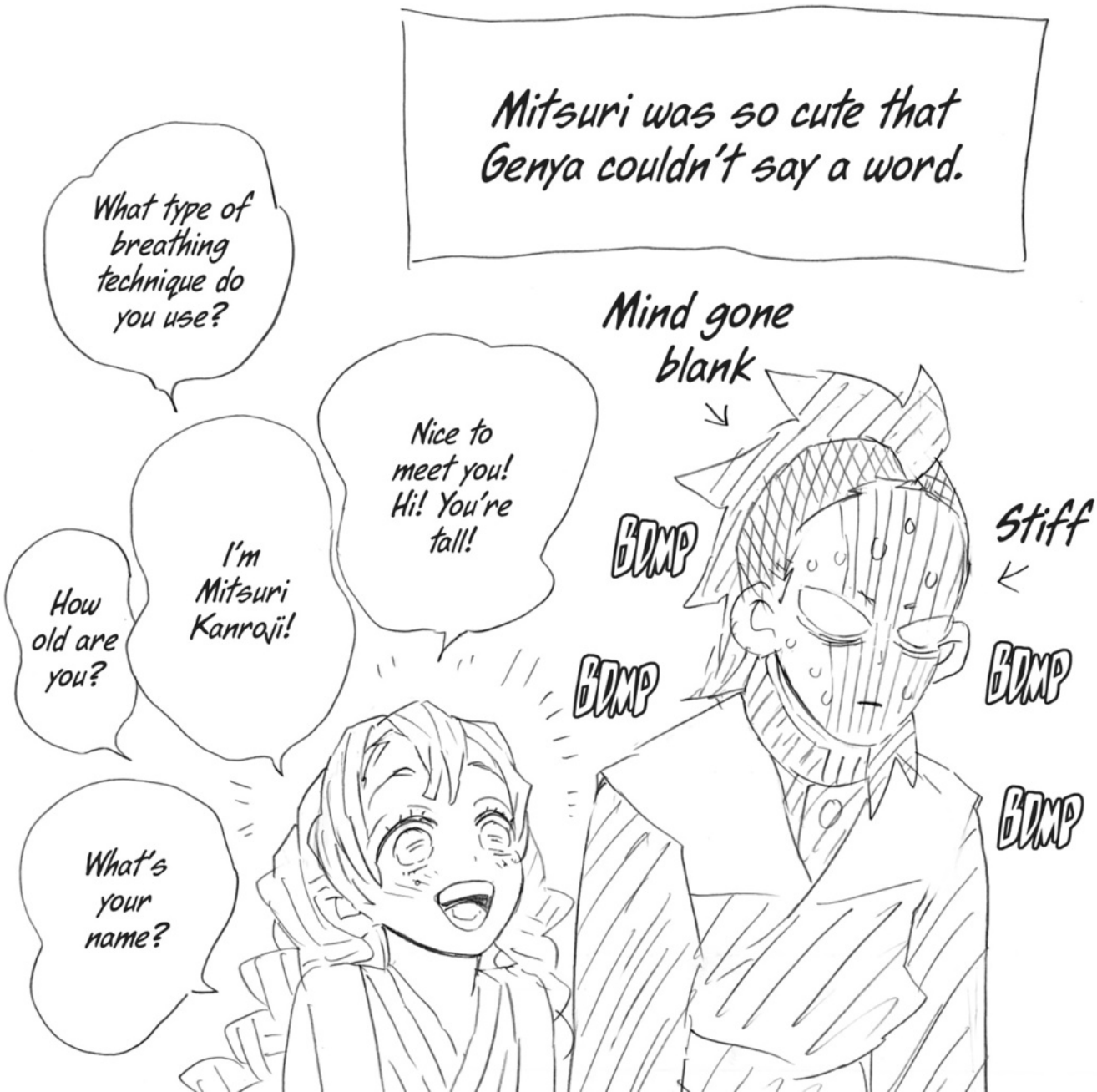
THIS IS A REALLY GREAT PLACE, BUT THE HOT SPRING SMELL IS STRONG.
HMM... AND NOT BEING COMPLETELY HEALTHY IS HAMPERING MY NOSE.

A CHILD?
...
...
AND ...
...WHO'S THAT...?

HMM? IF I REMEMBER, THAT'S A HASHIRA...
WHAT DID SHINOBU CALL HIM...?
OH, RIGHT.


THE MIST HASHIRA.


MUICHIRO...
...TOKITO.


Mitsuri was so cute that Genya couldn't say a word.
Mind gone blank
BUMP
Stiff
BUMP
BUMP
BUMP
Nice to meet you! Hi! You're tall!
I'm Mitsuri Kanroji!
How old are you?
What's your name?
What type of breathing technique do you use?

CHAPTER 102: HELLO, TOKITO

AND I DEFINITELY WON'T TELL YOU HOW TO USE IT!
GET OUT OF HERE!
WHATEVER HAPPENS, I WON'T GIVE YOU THE KEY!

WHAT SHOULD I DO? EAVES-DROPPING IS RUDE.
BUT IF THEY'RE FIGHTING, I SHOULD STEP IN.
...!
...!
WHAT'S WRONG? ARE THEY FIGHTING?

?!
SWIP

WHAT
THUD

TMP TMP
STOP!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!
YA
NK
UGH...
NNGH ...
GRAB
LET GO OF HIM!

LET GO OF—
UNGH!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO THAT CHILD?
WHO ARE YOU?
YOU'RE REALLY NOISY.
I CAN'T BUDGE HIM!
YOU LET GO.
BUT HIS ARMS ARE THIN AND HE'S SMALLER THAN ME!
RRGH...

HACK
HACK
UNGH!
THUD
...!
KOFF
YOU'RE INCREDIBLY WEAK.
I'M SURPRISED YOU GOT INTO THE DEMON SLAYER CORPS.

IS THAT—?
DO I SENSE A DEMON? WHAT'S IN THERE?
HMM?
THAT BOX FEELS STRANGE.
SMASH
DON'T TOUCH THAT.

FWP
!
...
THROB
THROB
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HE GOT THE BOY...
HEY...
LEMME GO!
WHOOSH
YOU MUST BE UPSET. THAT WAS CLOSE!
WSH
GO AWAY!

TWITCH
EVEN IF THEY TORTURE ME! NEVER!
IT'LL BREAK NEXT TIME!
SHAKE
I...
I WON'T GIVE THE KEY TO ANYONE!
TREMBLE

YOU APPEAR TO BE AN EXCEEDINGLY DUMB BRAT.
EVEN MOST ADULTS CAN'T ENDURE IT, SO IT'S IMPOSSIBLE THAT YOU COULD.
HAVE YOU BEEN TRAINED TO WITH-STAND TORTURE?

...DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL DIE?
WHILE YOU'RE RATTLING ON AND ON AND ON AND ON WITH YOUR NONSENSE...
SO WHAT IF IT DOES BREAK? WHY NOT MAKE IT AGAIN?

THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO INTERFERE WITH A HASHIRA.
?!

IF YOU USED YOUR HEAD JUST A LITTLE, YOU'D UNDER-STAND.
YOUR TIME AND A HASHIRA'S TIME HAVE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT VALUE.
SWORDSMITHS CAN'T FIGHT. THEY CAN'T SAVE SOMEONE'S LIFE. THEY ONLY HAVE THE ABILITY TO MAKE WEAPONS.

THE KEY!
SO COME ON...

KNOW YOUR PLACE IN LIFE, AND ACT ACCORDINGLY.
BECAUSE YOU AREN'T A BABY.
SMA

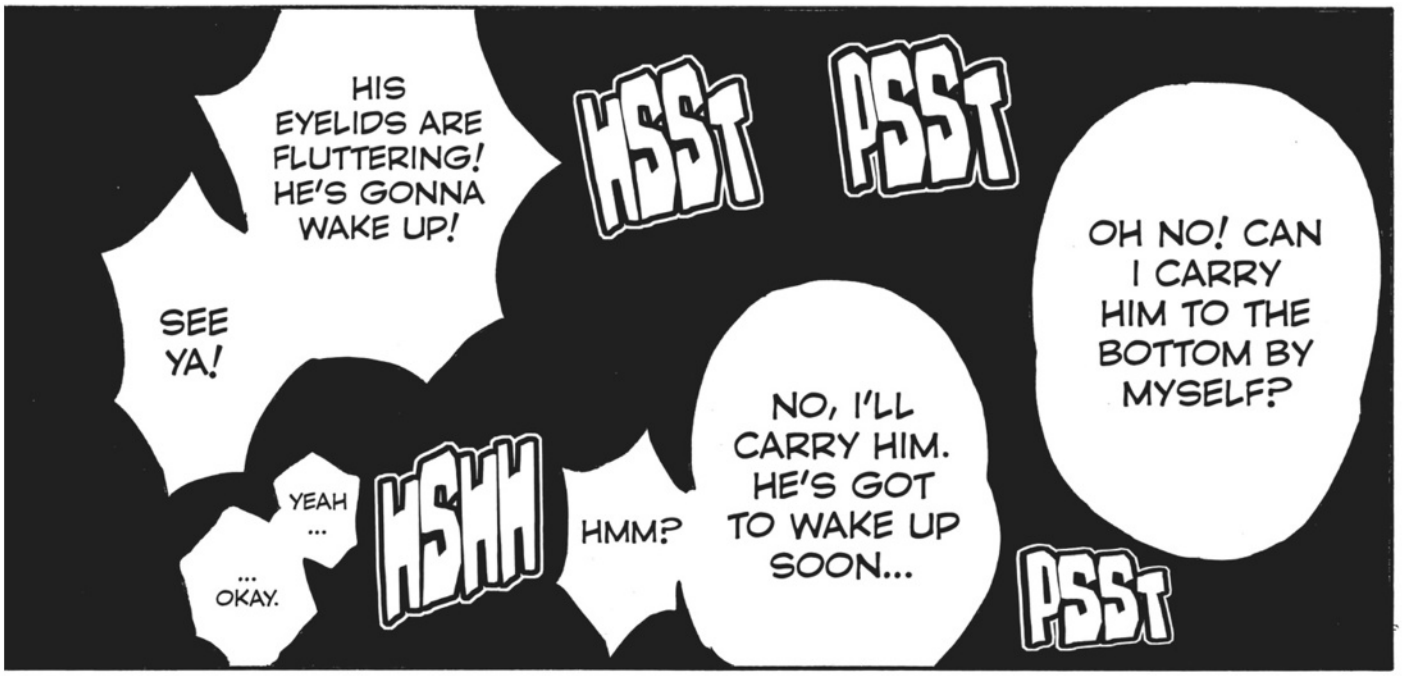
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
!
I...JUST... REALLY DON'T LIKE THIS! WHY ARE YOU ACTING LIKE THIS?!
THE LACK OF CONSIDERATION! IT'S MEAN AND IT'S CRUEL!
KRK
KRK
KRK
CLUTCH
CLUTCH
CRUEL? BUT IT WAS NOTHING.
YOU—
MAYBE SO!
WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS BASICALLY TRUE, BUT...
...WHILE IT ISN'T TECHNICALLY WRONG...

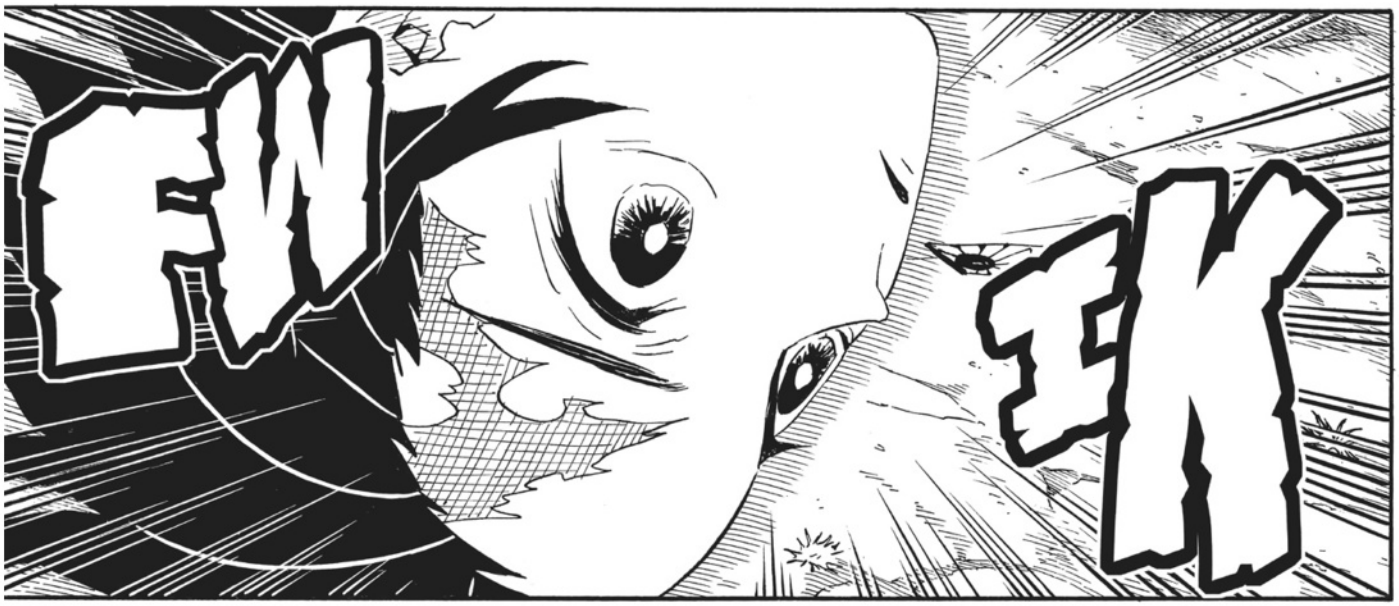
I MEAN, WE COULDN'T DO ANYTHING IF WE DIDN'T HAVE ACTUAL SWORDS!
THEY'RE DIFFER-ENT FROM SWORDSMEN BUT THEY STILL HAVE INCREDIBLE SKILLS!
THE SWORD-SMITHS ARE IMPORTANT AND DO CRUCIAL WORK!

WE JUST EACH FIGHT IN OUR OWN PLACE!
SORRY, BUT...
WE'RE BOTH PART OF THE FIGHT!
SWORDS-MEN AND SWORD-SMITHS NEED EACH OTHER!

...I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS POINTLESS CONVERSATION.

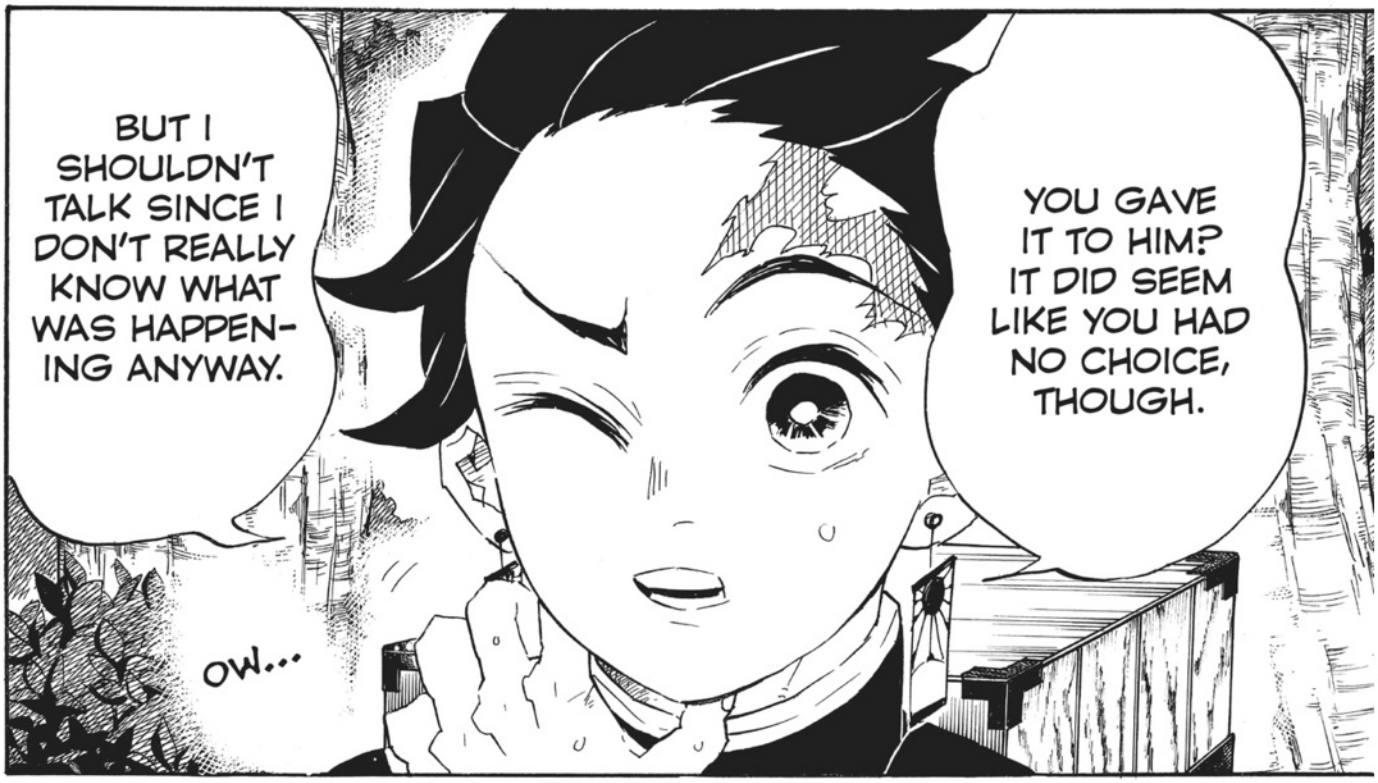
THUD

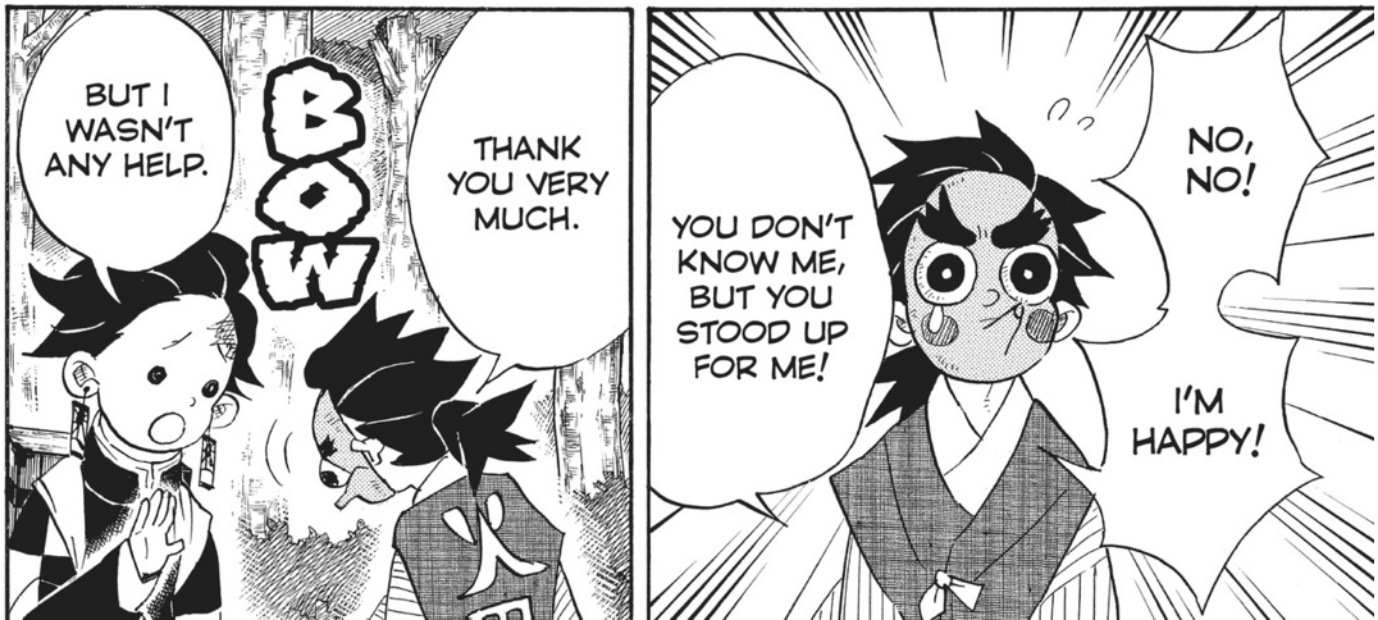

HIS EYELIDS ARE FLUTTERING! HE'S GONNA WAKE UP!
HSST
PSST
OH NO! CAN I CARRY HIM TO THE BOTTOM BY MYSELF?
SEE YA!
YEAH ...
... OKAY.
HSHH
HMM?
NO, I'LL CARRY HIM. HE'S GOT TO WAKE UP SOON...
PSST

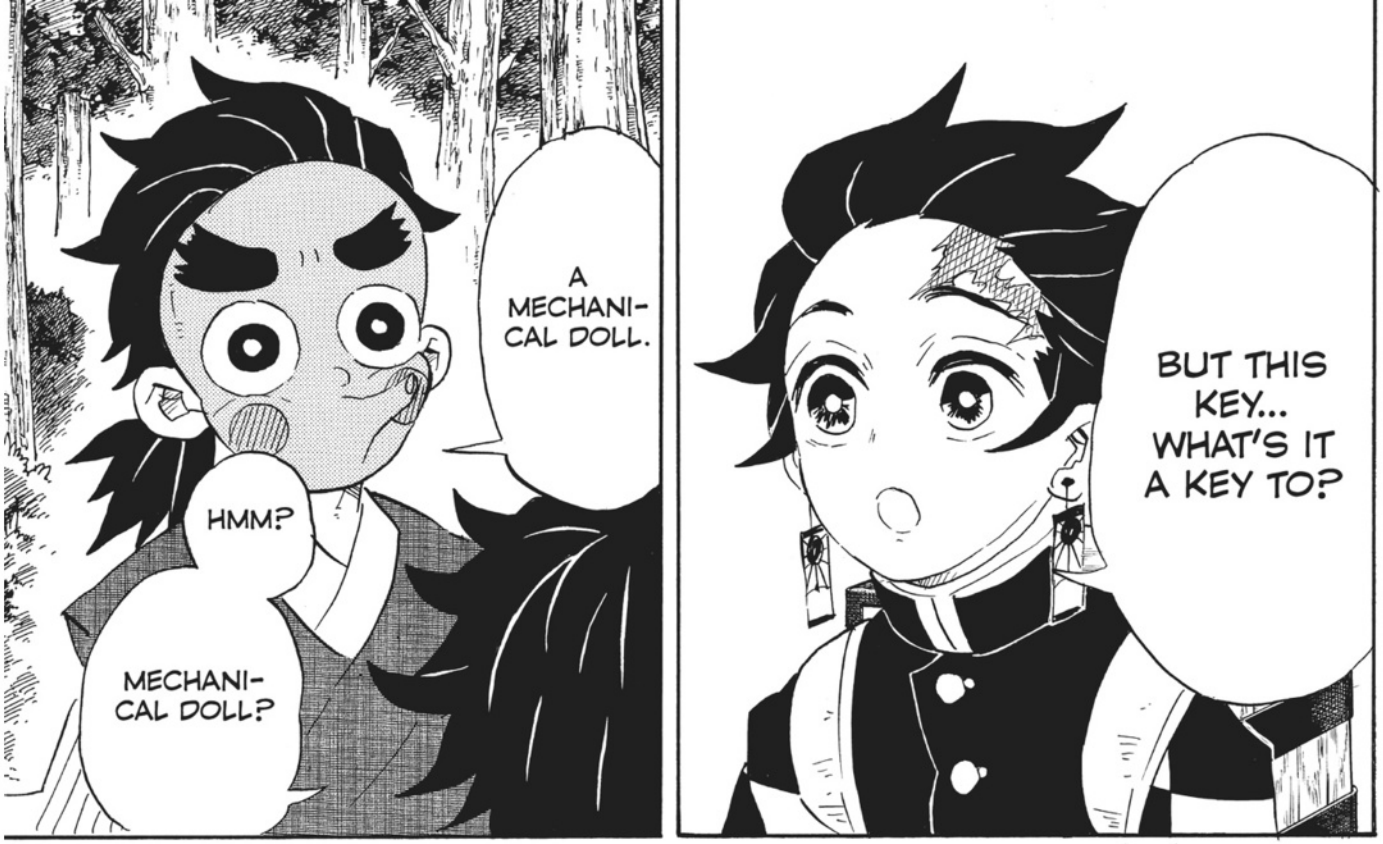

FW
EK

WHA—?!
HUH?
HUH?
WAS HAGANE-ZUKA HERE?!
WASN'T HE HERE JUST NOW?!
YOU SHOULDN'T GET UP TOO QUICKLY.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
OH!
WHUP

I GAVE HIM THE KEY, SO HE LEFT.
WHERE'S THAT HASHIRA?
EVENT
OH. WAS IT MY IMAGINATION?
NOPE. HE WASN'T HERE!


BUT I SHOULDN'T TALK SINCE I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT WAS HAPPENING ANYWAY.
OW...
YOU GAVE IT TO HIM? IT DID SEEM LIKE YOU HAD NO CHOICE, THOUGH.


BUT I WASN'T ANY HELP.
BOW
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
YOU DON'T KNOW ME, BUT YOU STOOD UP FOR ME!
NO, NO!
I'M HAPPY!


BUT THIS KEY... WHAT'S IT A KEY TO?
A MECHANI-CAL DOLL.
HMM?
MECHANI-CAL DOLL?

YES.
MY ANCESTORS MADE IT AND IT CAN DO 108 MOVEMENTS.
WHOAAA!
REALLY?! THAT'S AMAZING!
IT'S STRONGER THAN A HUMAN, SO WE USE IT FOR COMBAT TRAINING.

OH! HE WANTS TO TRAIN WITH IT?
YES. BUT IT'S GETTING OLD AND MIGHT BREAK.
FWAM
WHOA! WHAT THE...?!
HE'S STARTED.
TMP TMP
THIS WAY!

BUH
BUH

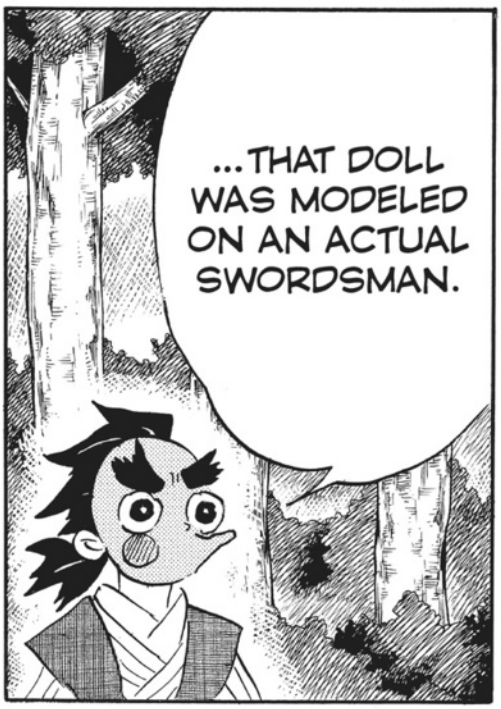
...
...THE MECHANICAL DOLL FOR COMBAT USE THAT MY ANCESTORS MADE.
THAT'S...
YORIICHI TYPE ZERO!

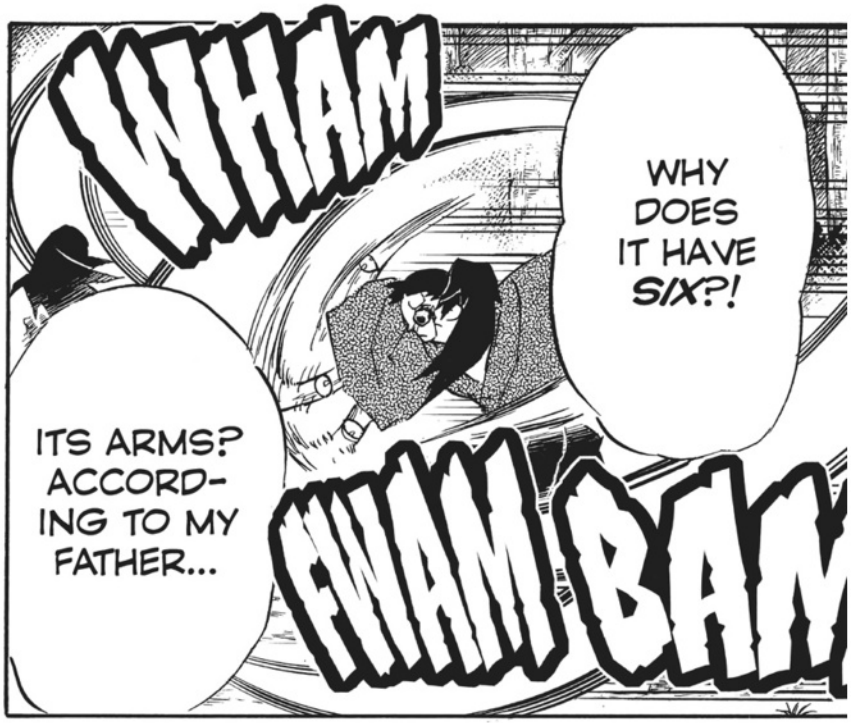
A NEW EIGHT-PANEL COMIC: MITSURI'S CORPS UNIFORM

WHY IS SHINOBU'S CORPS UNIFORM NORMAL?!
UMM... THE MEASURE-MENTS FOR THIS CORPS UNIFORM AREN'T RIGHT.
THEY GAVE ME ONE LIKE THAT AT FIRST TOO.
Huh? Really?!
So embar-rassing!
AND MINE IS LIKE THIS! DON'T GIRLS DRESS LIKE THIS?!
So loud!
MASAO MAEDA: DEMON SLAYER CORPS UNIFORM TAILOR
NICKNAME: FOUR-EYED CREEP
SHAKE SHAKE
NO, THEY'RE PERFECT. THAT FITS JUST RIGHT.
SH-SHINOBU!
ARRRGH!
BUT I POURED OIL ON IT AND BURNED IT IN FRONT OF MAEDA.
IT'S EMBARRASS-ING, BUT OH WELL, I GUESS!
HUH?! R-REALLY?! ALL THE GIRLS DRESS LIKE THIS?!
SHINOBUUU!
I'LL GET YOU SOME OIL AND MATCHES. I GAVE SOME TO KANAO AND AOI TOO.
HASHIRA MEETING

CHAPTER 103: YORIICHI TYPE ZERO

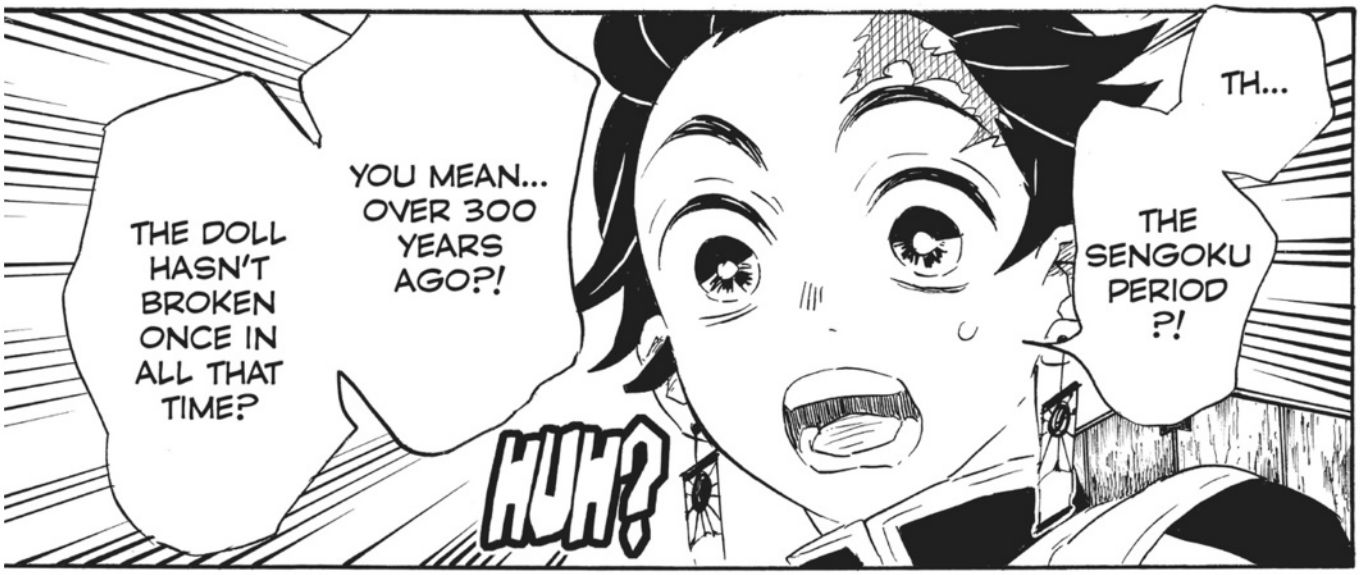
I KNOW THAT.
I RECOGNIZE THAT FACE.
ITS ARMS...


...THAT DOLL WAS MODELED ON AN ACTUAL SWORDSMAN.


WHAM
WHY DOES IT HAVE SIX?!
ITS ARMS? ACCORD-ING TO MY FATHER...
BAM

...IT COULDN'T RE-CREATE THAT SWORDSMAN'S MOVEMENTS.
HE SAID IF IT DIDN'T HAVE SIX ARMS...

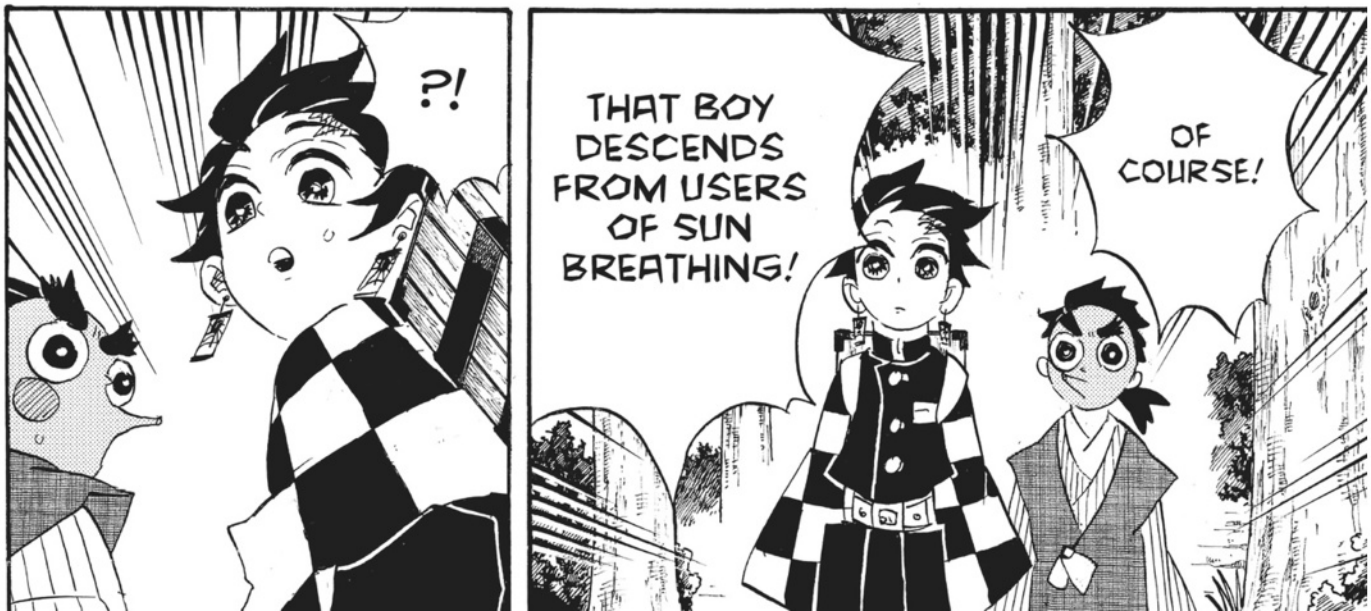
I FEEL LIKE I KNOW HIM, BUT I'M NOT SURE.
WHO WAS THAT SWORDS-MAN? WHERE WAS HE FROM AND WHAT DID HE DO?
HURM
SORRY, BUT I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT IT.
HMM
IT WAS DURING THE SENGOKU PERIOD.


TH...
THE SENGOKU PERIOD ?!
YOU MEAN... OVER 300 YEARS AGO?!
THE DOLL HASN'T BROKEN ONCE IN ALL THAT TIME?
HUH?

IT'S AMAZING TECHNOLOGY THAT WE CAN'T MATCH EVEN TODAY.
IF IT BREAKS, WE CAN'T REPAIR IT.

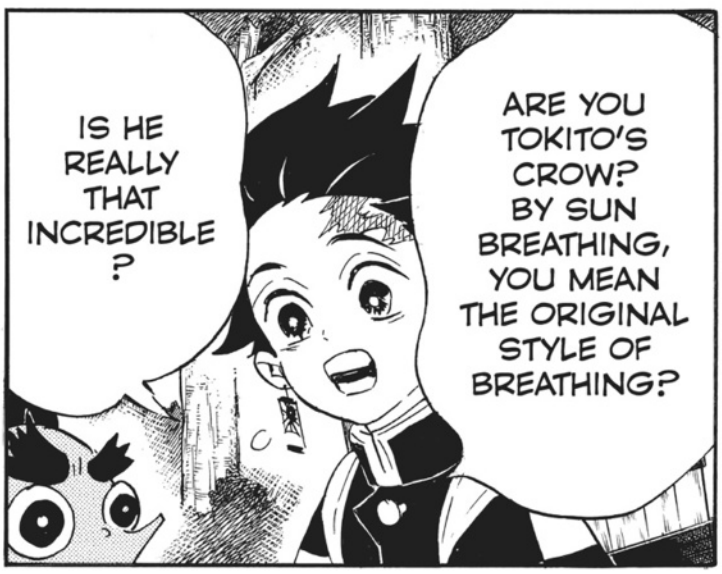
TREMBLE
MY FATHER DIED SUDDENLY AND I DON'T HAVE ANY SIBLINGS.
I HAVE TO DO A GOOD JOB...
...BUT I HAVE NO TALENT WITH SWORDS OR MECHANICAL THINGS.
SHAKE
SO THAT'S WHY YOU'RE SO...
I SEE...
I SEE...

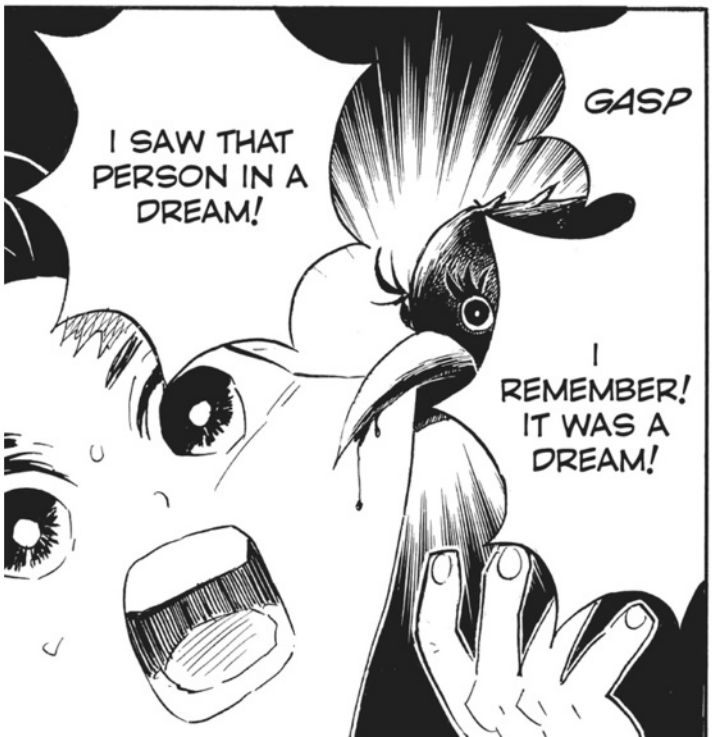
HE'S...
...INCRED-IBLE.
HE ISN'T THAT MUCH OLDER THAN ME, BUT HE'S A HASHIRA... HE HAS TALENT...


?!
THAT BOY DESCENDS FROM USERS OF SUN BREATHING!
OF COURSE!

TEE HEE HEE HEE!
HMPH!
HMPH!
HMMPH!
HE'S A GENIUS!
HE'S ON A WHOLE DIFFERENT LEVEL THAN YOU LOT!

BUT HE DOESN'T USE SUN BREATHING, RIGHT?

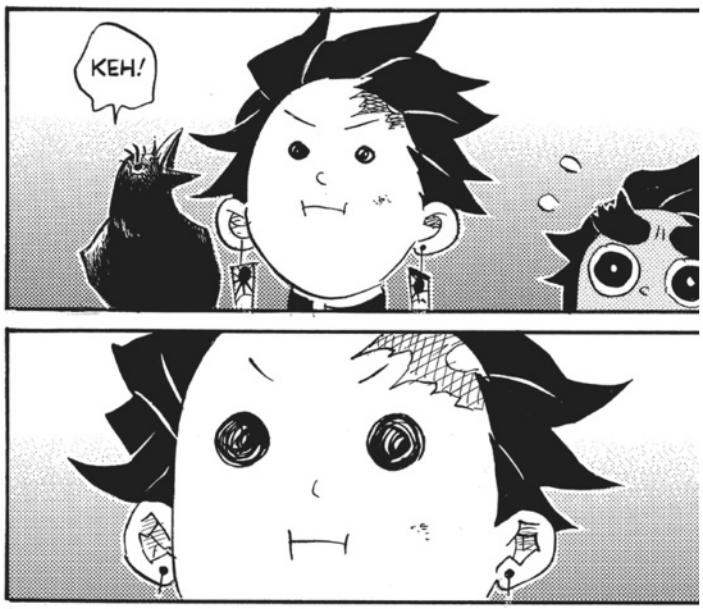

IS HE REALLY THAT INCREDIBLE?
ARE YOU TOKITO'S CROW? BY SUN BREATHING, YOU MEAN THE ORIGINAL STYLE OF BREATHING?


I SAW THAT PERSON IN A DREAM!
GASP
I REMEMBER! IT WAS A DREAM!

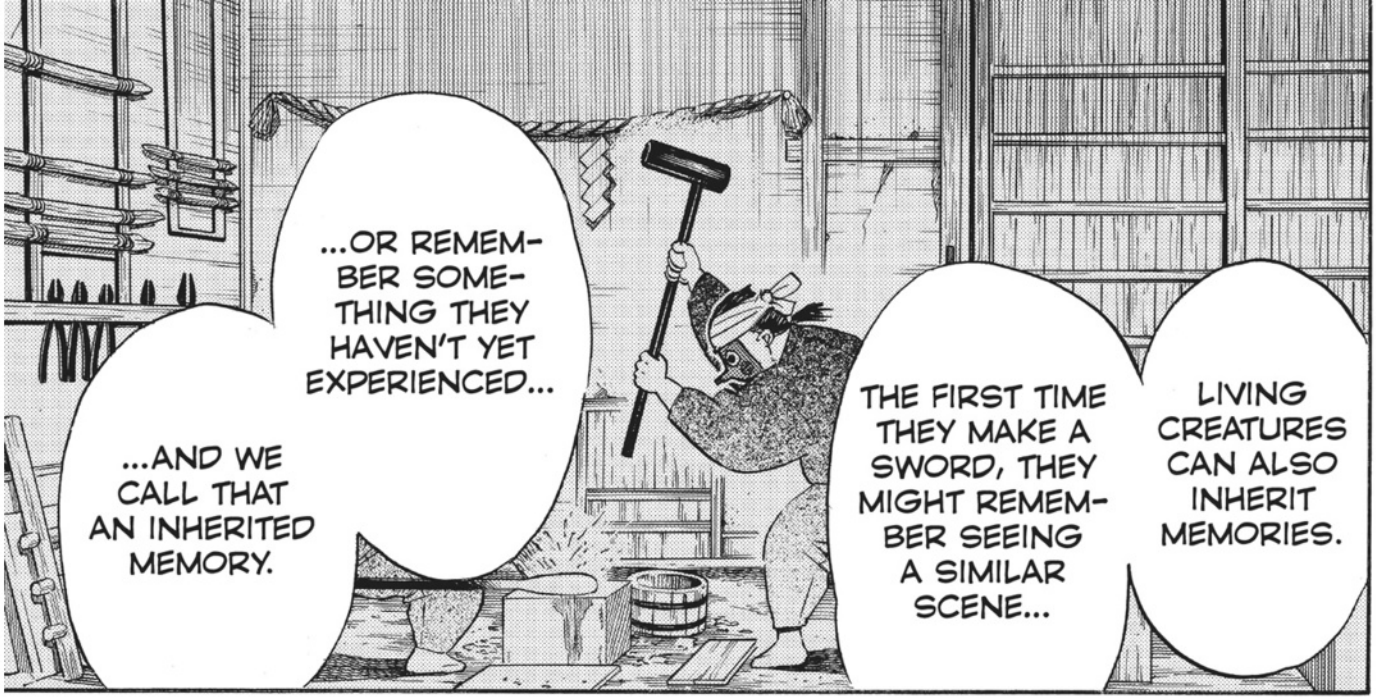
GYAAAH!
SHUT UP! I'LL PECK OUT YOUR EYES!

DO YOU KNOW A WARRIOR FROM THE SENGOKU PERIOD? HOW OLD ARE YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THIS VILLAGE? THAT'S SO UNREALISTIC I COULD LAUGH!
WHAT? ARE YOU STUPID?!

S-SORRY. I'M STRANGE, AREN'T I?
SHMP
NO, NO!


KEH!

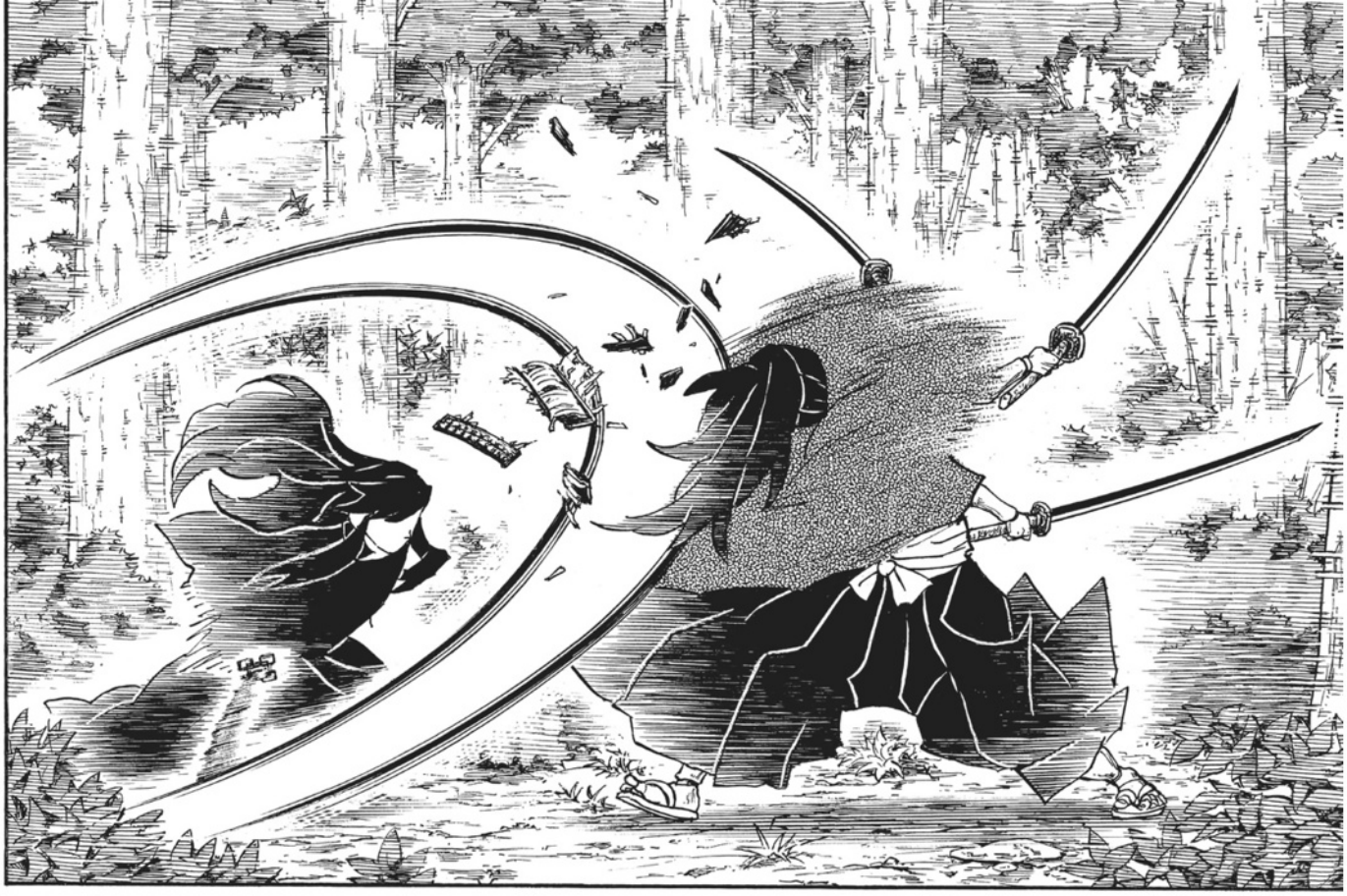
PEOPLE IN OUR VILLAGE TALK ABOUT THAT!
FAMILIES PASS ON MORE THAN JUST THEIR OUTWARD APPEAR-ANCE.
MAYBE IT'S AN *INHERITED MEMORY!*


LIVING CREATURES CAN ALSO INHERIT MEMORIES.
THE FIRST TIME THEY MAKE A SWORD, THEY MIGHT REMEMBER SEEING A SIMILAR SCENE...
...OR REMEMBER SOMETHING THEY HAVEN'T YET EXPERIENCED...
...AND WE CALL THAT AN INHERITED MEMORY.

THAT'S KIND OF YOU. THANK YOU.
I'M TANJIRO. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
KEH!

THE DREAM YOU HAD MUST HAVE BEEN AN ANCESTOR'S MEMORY!
THAT'S A FANTASY!
FAAAANTASYYY!

SKRA
I'M KOTETSU.
NEVER MIND THAT MEAN LADY CROW.
!
!!



AAH!
HIS ARMOR ...!
Hmph!

KOTETSU!
WHSH
SNIFF SNIFF
KOTETSU!
KOTE—
But I'm not in good condition right now...
I'LL FIND YOU! I'VE GOT A GOOD NOSE!
KOTETSU!
I'LL HELP WITH THE DOLL IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO!
YOU CAN'T GIVE UP!
WOW! YOU'RE CLIMBING AT FULL SPEED, KOTETSU!

YOUR FUTURE IS BRIGHT!
YOU HAVE TO WORK HARD NOW SO YOU CAN BECOME THE PERSON YOU'LL BE IN TEN OR 20 YEARS!
EVENTUALLY YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO ALL SORTS OF THINGS YOU CAN'T DO NOW!

...
人間

NO, I WON'T!
I KNOW MYSELF! I'M JUST NO GOOD!
IT WILL ALL END WITH MY GENERATION AND IT'S MY FAULT!

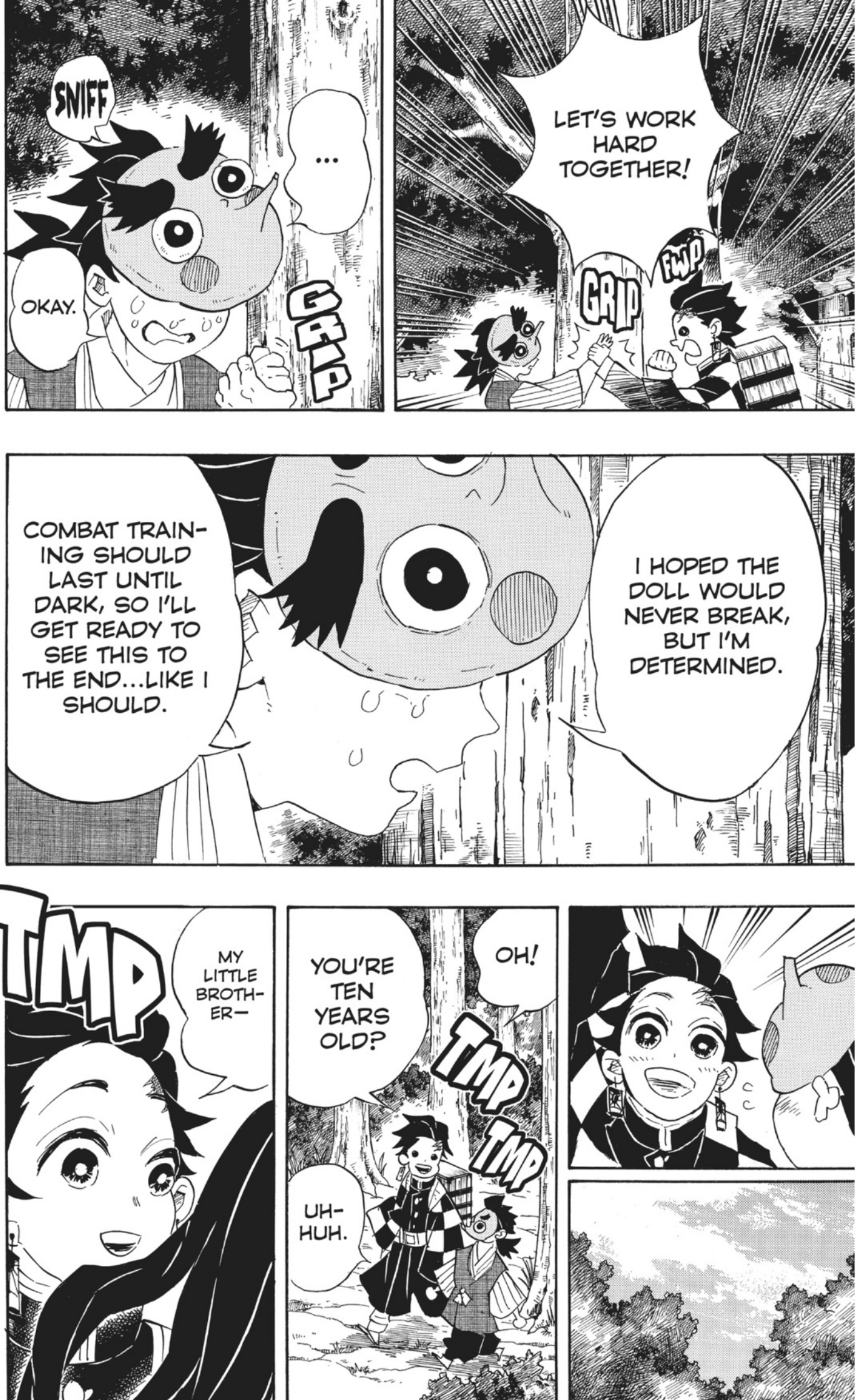
HUH? YOW!

I DON'T WANT YOU TO TALK ABOUT YOURSELF LIKE THAT.
YOU CAN'T ABANDON YOUR RESPON-SIBILITY.
HE MOVED SILENTLY. THIS IS A SWORDS-MAN!

Get lost, you and your ugly eyelashes!
What're you lookin' at, low ranker?!
EVEN IF YOU NEVER CAN DO IT, MAYBE YOUR CHILDREN OR GRAND-CHILDREN WILL BE ABLE TO, RIGHT?
YOU HAVE TO PUT IN THE EFFORT FOR WHAT COMES NEXT.
EVEN IF YOU CAN'T DO IT YOURSELF, YOU'LL FIND SOMEONE ELSE TO CARRY ON FOR YOU.

GRAAH!
!!
STILL, I BELIEVE THAT SOMEONE WILL ULTIMATELY GET IT DONE.
AS SURELY AS SOME-ONE SAVED OUR LIVES AND WE WENT ON TO DEFEAT AN UPPER-RANK DEMON...
...THE LIVES WE SAVE ARE CERTAIN TO EVENTUALLY DEFEAT KIBUTSUJI.

I WANT TO DEFEAT MUZAN KIBUTSUJI...
...AND HELP MY LITTLE SISTER WHO WAS TURNED INTO A DEMON.
!
BUT I MAY DIE BEFORE I ACCOM-PLISH ANYTHING.
...


SNIFF
...
OKAY.
GRIP
LET'S WORK HARD TOGETHER!
GRIP
FWP
COMBAT TRAINING SHOULD LAST UNTIL DARK, SO I'LL GET READY TO SEE THIS TO THE END...LIKE I SHOULD.
I HOPED THE DOLL WOULD NEVER BREAK, BUT I'M DETERMINED.
TMP
MY LITTLE BROTHER—
YOU'RE TEN YEARS OLD?
OH!
TMP
TMP
UH-HUH.

SWF
SWF
?!

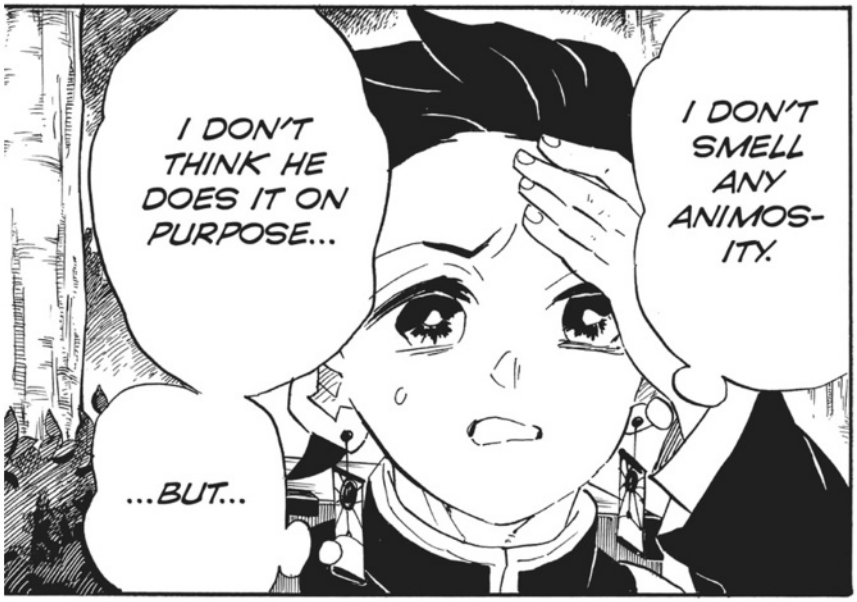
HUH?
...
YOU'RE DONE?!

I'M FIN-ISHED. IT WAS GOOD TRAINING.
WHO ARE YOU AGAIN?
OH...
...RIGHT.

MY SWORD BROKE, SO I'M TAKING THIS ONE.

SSWP
KOTETSU!
...!

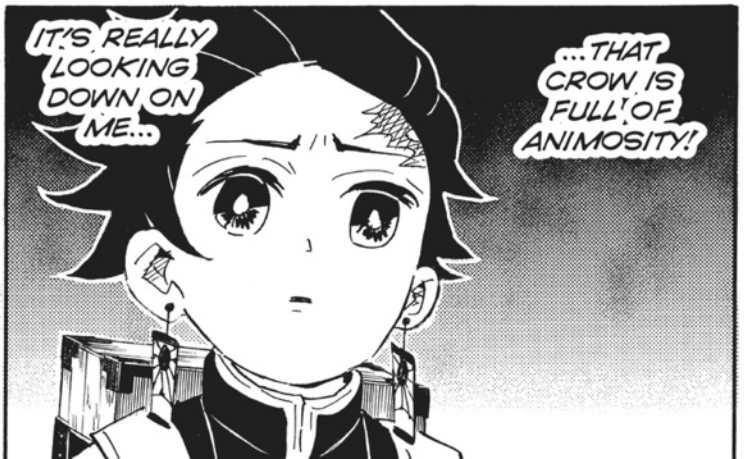
DISPOSE OF THAT.
KTNK
BONK
WAH!

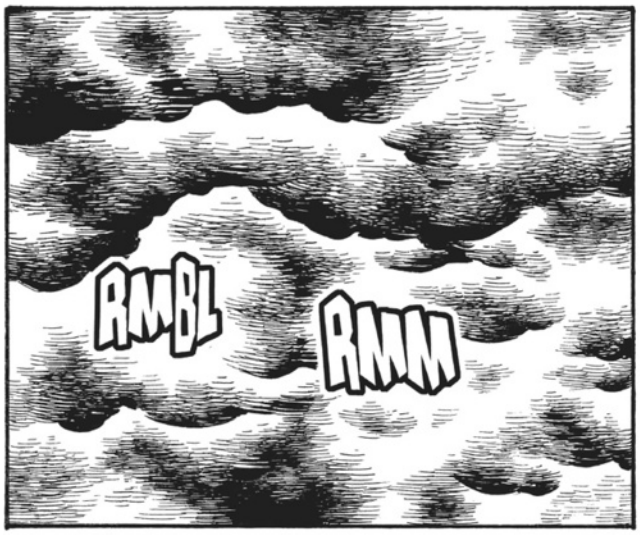

I DON'T SMELL ANY ANIMOS-ITY.
I DON'T THINK HE DOES IT ON PURPOSE...
...BUT...

KAW
SWF
SWF
...

KOTETSU ...
KOTETSU ...
OH, THERE HE IS!

HMPH!


IT'S REALLY LOOKING DOWN ON ME...
...THAT CROW IS FULL OF ANIMOSITY!


RMBL
RMM

...

ZUZZ

LET'S GO LOOK...
...AND SEE IF IT STILL WORKS.

KOTETSU...

...
IT'S NOT MOVING.
SO I GUESS IT'S...

HMM.
NOD

KRK
KRK
KRIK

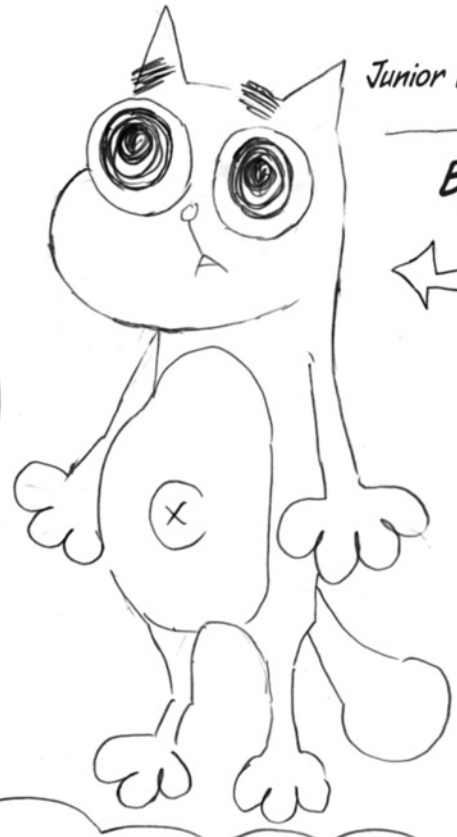
FWIP
KWHRRR
SHNN

RMBL
RMBL
YES! TRAIN WITH THIS, TANJIRO!
...
IT STILL WORKS, KOTETSU!
YEAH!
GREAT!
I WILL HELP YOU...
AND GET STRONGER THAN THAT EMOTIONLESS JERK!
...WITH ALL MY STRENGTH!
WHAT... STARTING NOW?!

It's been a while!

Junior High and High School ♡ Kimetsu Academy Story!

By Mitsuri



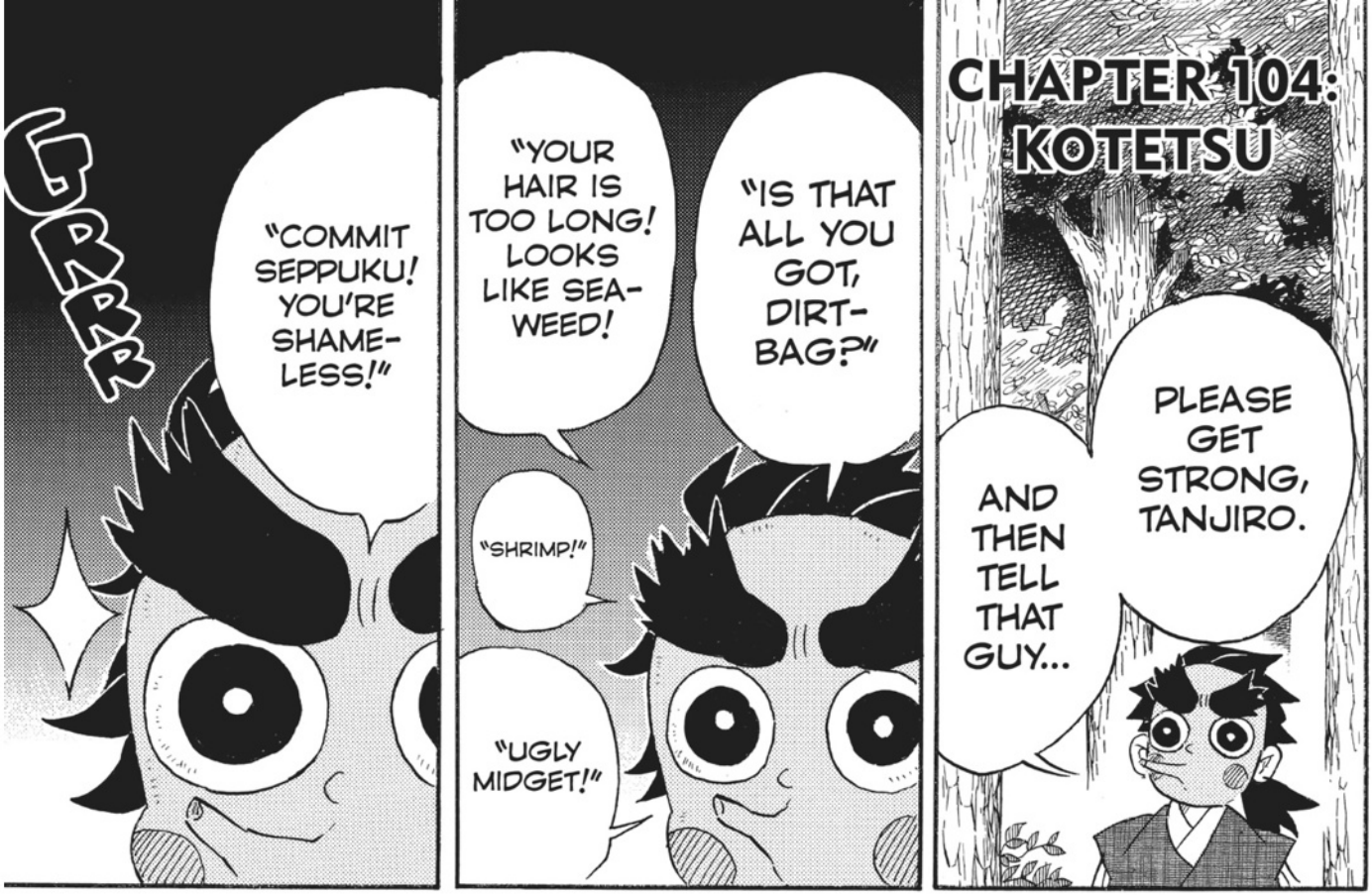
BIG HAND CAT

Big Hand Cat. In addition to its big hands, this cat is distinctive for its fuzzy eyebrows and outie belly button.

Mitsuri Kanroji (19). Graduate of Kimetsu Academy. Currently she is attending a local art college. She's popular with the boys, but she hasn't noticed it, so she thinks she needs to search for a boyfriend.

My dream is making people all over the world happy through my art!!

SHINY NG

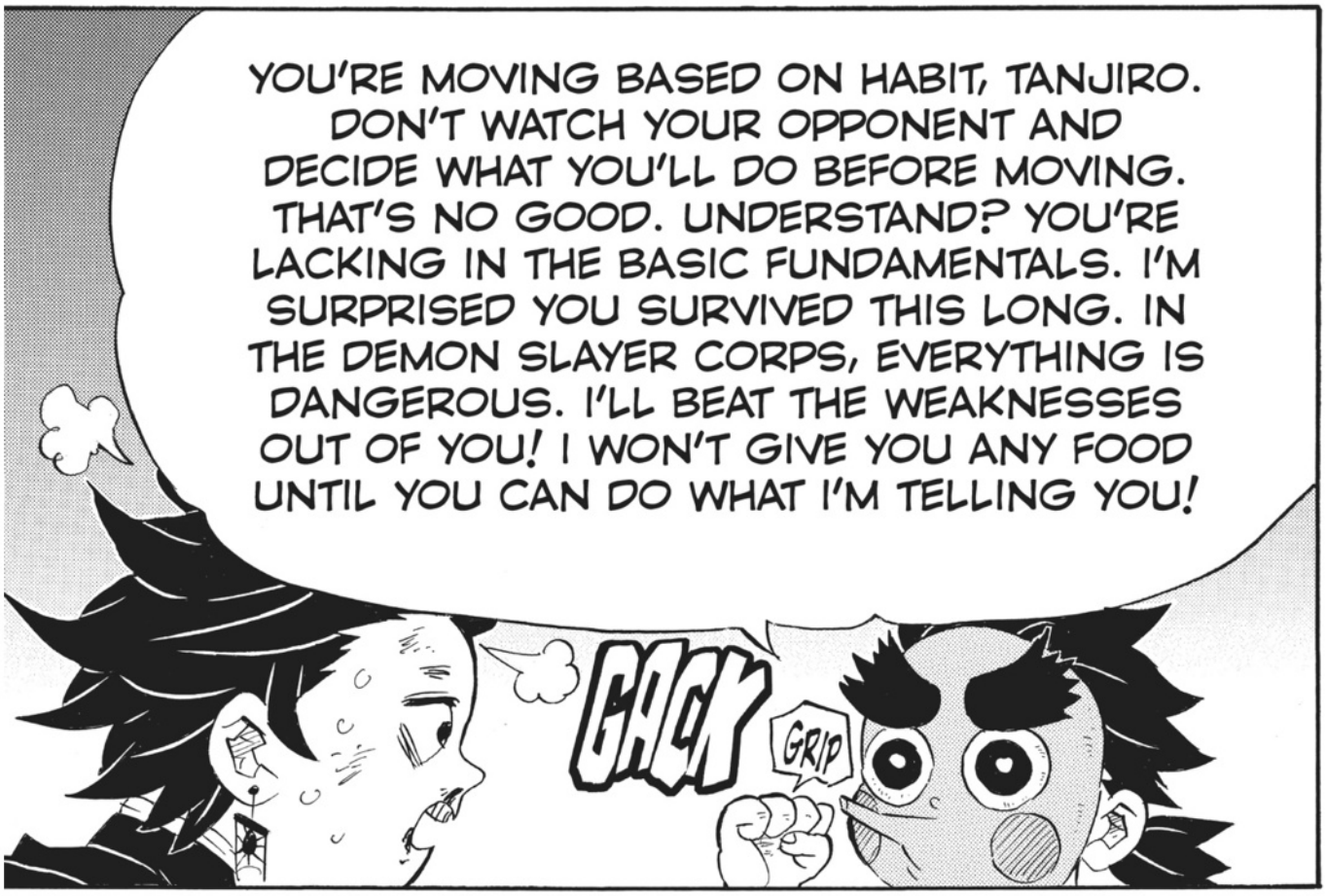

CHAPTER 104: KOTETSU
PLEASE GET STRONG, TANJIRO.
AND THEN TELL THAT GUY...
"IS THAT ALL YOU GOT, DIRT-BAG?"
"YOUR HAIR IS TOO LONG! LOOKS LIKE SEA-WEED!
"SHRIMP!"
"UGLY MIDGET!"
GRRR
"COMMIT SEPPUKU! YOU'RE SHAME-LESS!"

NO! KOTETSU?!
MAYBE JUST HANG HIM?
NO! I CAN'T SAY SUCH HARSH THINGS!
I DON'T THINK...
BUT YOU WILL.
NO!
EVEN IF I DON'T VOICE IT...
... TOKITO WAS INCRED-IBLE!
HE'S SMALLER AND YOUNGER THAN I AM, BUT...

TANJIRO!
...I WON'T BE BEATEN!
JUST SAY IT, OKAY?
I MUST GET STRONGER TOO!

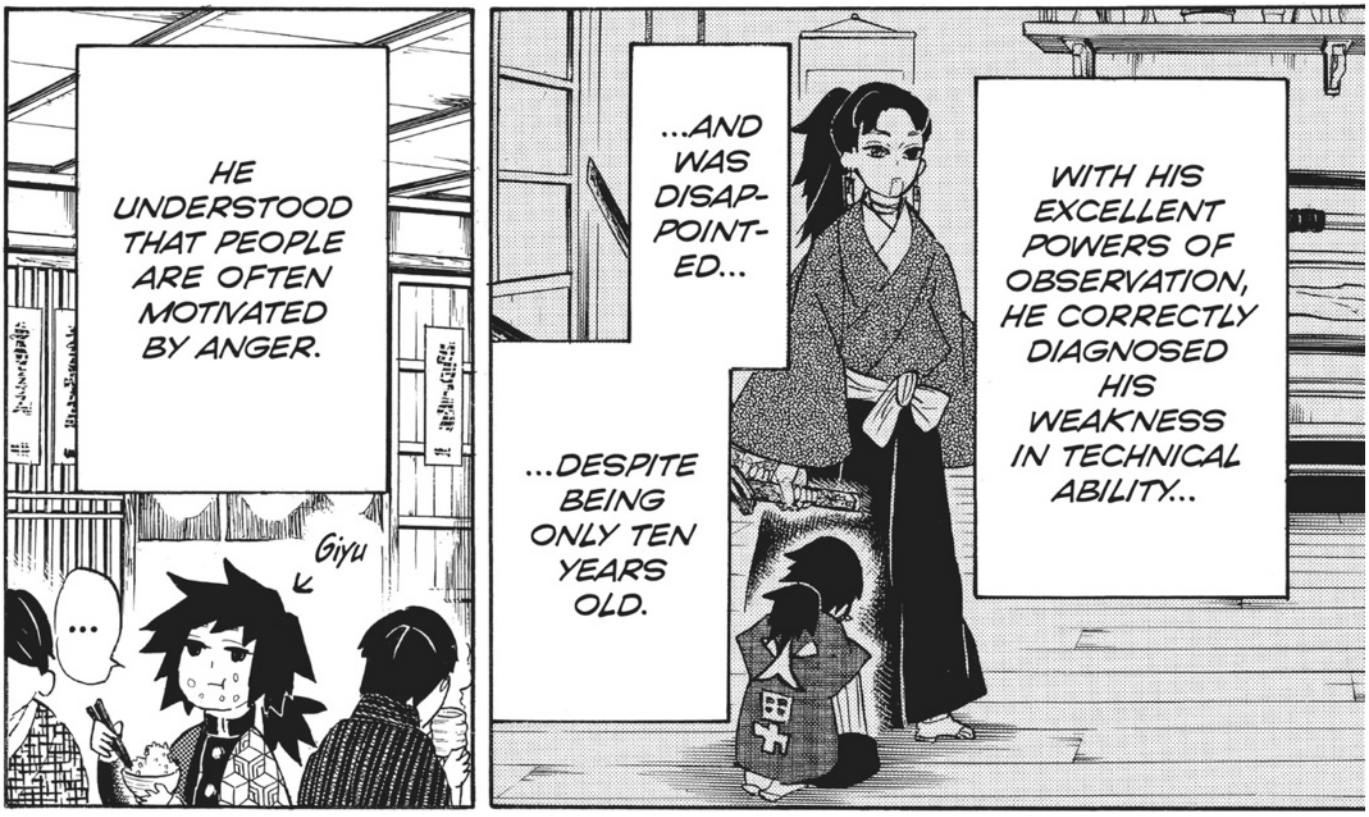
WHAT
WAAAAAH!
GUGH!
WHUD
WHAM
TANJIRO!
SIX ARMS IS TOO MUCH!
I'M GONNA DIE!

SLAP
SLAP
SLAP
DO YOUR BEST! I'LL SAY IT AGAIN, SO LISTEN UP!
YOU'RE USELESS IF THIS IS ALL IT TAKES TO KILL YOU!
Don't lose!
YANK
THE DOLL HAS FEWER MOVES NOW!
HE ONLY HAS FIVE ARMS BECAUSE THAT PUNK BROKE ONE!


YOU'RE MOVING BASED ON HABIT, TANJIRO. DON'T WATCH YOUR OPPONENT AND DECIDE WHAT YOU'LL DO BEFORE MOVING. THAT'S NO GOOD. UNDERSTAND? YOU'RE LACKING IN THE BASIC FUNDAMENTALS. I'M SURPRISED YOU SURVIVED THIS LONG. IN THE DEMON SLAYER CORPS, EVERYTHING IS DANGEROUS. I'LL BEAT THE WEAKNESSES OUT OF YOU! I WON'T GIVE YOU ANY FOOD UNTIL YOU CAN DO WHAT I'M TELLING YOU!
GACK
GRIP

KOTETSU ACTUALLY HAS A VENOMOUS TONGUE.
RIGHT...

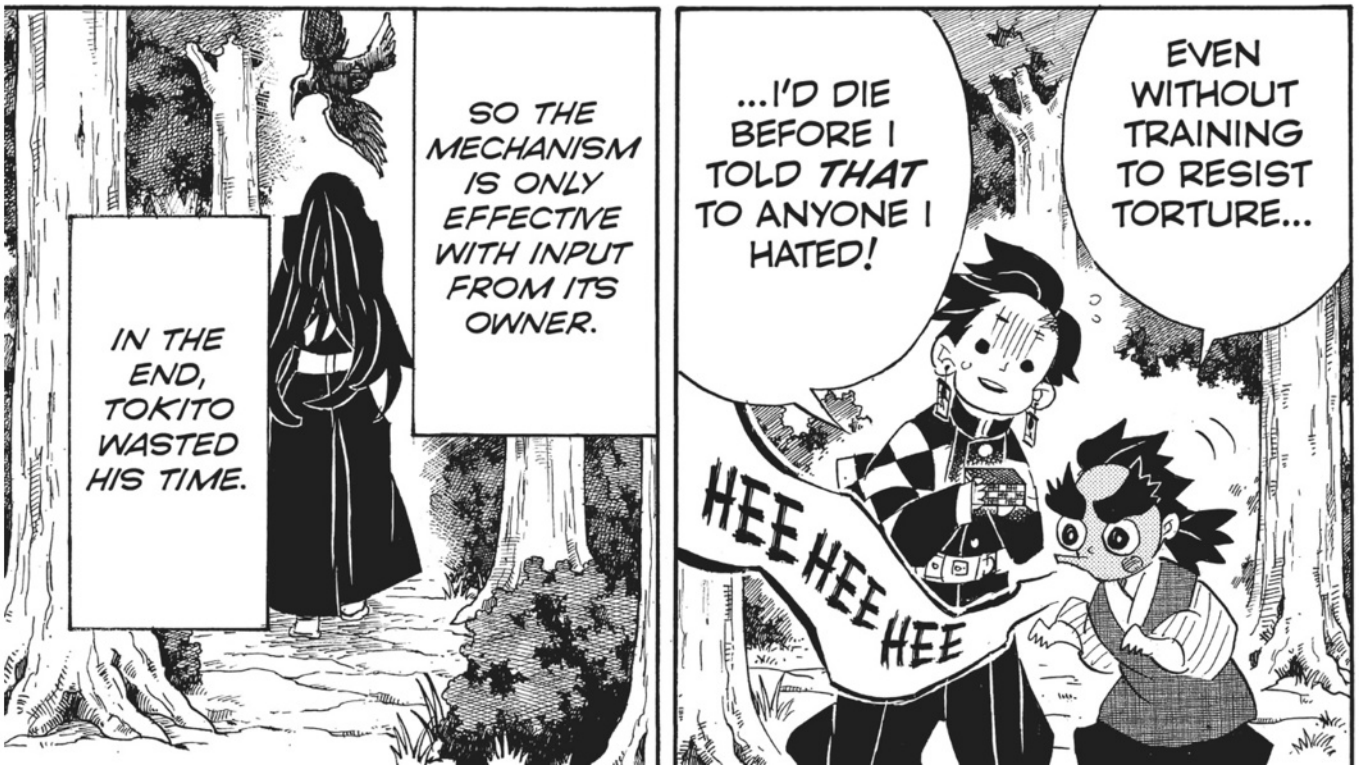
HE WAS SO DEPRESSED BY HIS FATHER'S DEATH THAT HIS TONGUE FELL SILENT.
BUT TOKITO'S ACTIONS SNAPPED HIM OUT OF IT.
IT TURNED OUT KOTETSU HAD A GOOD EYE FOR ANALYZING FIGHTING STYLES.


WITH HIS EXCELLENT POWERS OF OBSERVATION, HE CORRECTLY DIAGNOSED HIS WEAKNESS IN TECHNICAL ABILITY...
...AND WAS DISAP-POINT-ED...
...DESPITE BEING ONLY TEN YEARS OLD.
HE UNDERSTOOD THAT PEOPLE ARE OFTEN MOTIVATED BY ANGER.
Giyu
...

I NEVER TOLD HIM THIS, BUT...
...IF YOU TURN THE KEY...
Hmm?
...ON THE BACK OF THE DOLL'S HEAD, YOU CAN CHANGE ITS MOVEMENTS.

IT WON'T OPEN UNLESS YOU MOVE IT THE RIGHT WAY.
IT'S JUST LIKE THAT.
YES, I KNOW WHAT IT IS. MY LITTLE SISTER HANAKO HAD ONE.
YAY
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A YOSEGI-ZAIKU PUZZLE BOX?
You made that? Wow!
I made this one.
SWIP

KAK KAK
KRIK
OTHERWISE, THERE'D BE NO POINT IN USING IT FOR COMBAT TRAINING.
THE SWORDSMITHS DESIGNED IT WITH MOVEMENTS TO EXPLOIT THE WEAKNESSES OF SWORDSMEN.
IN THE CASE OF THIS DOLL, YOU CAN SET ITS ACTIONS BY THE NUMBER OF TIMES YOU TURN THE WRIST AND FINGERS.

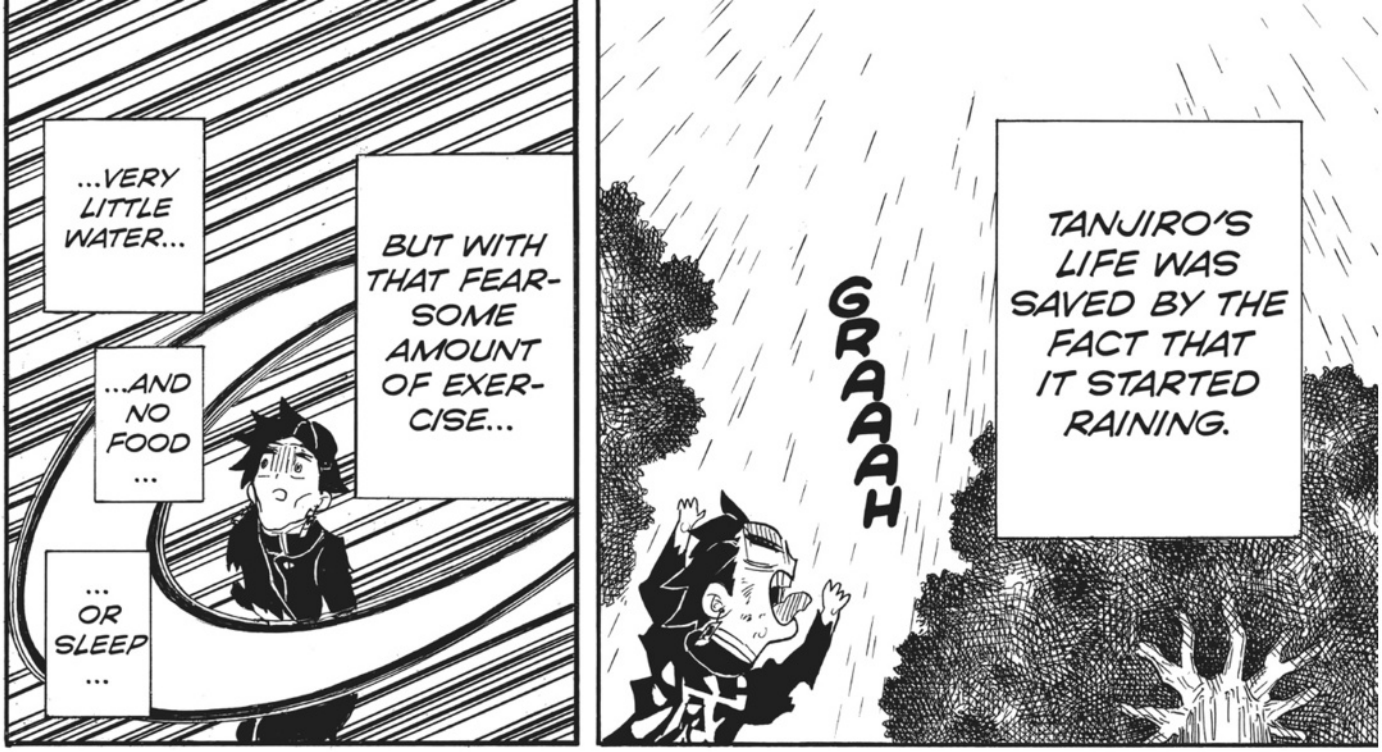

IN THE END, TOKITO WASTED HIS TIME.
SO THE MECHANISM IS ONLY EFFECTIVE WITH INPUT FROM ITS OWNER.
...I'D DIE BEFORE I TOLD THAT TO ANYONE I HATED!
EVEN WITHOUT TRAINING TO RESIST TORTURE...
HEE HEE HEE

WHAM
SKID
DU
YOU'RE TOO SLOW, TANJIRO!
THAT'S NO GOOD AT ALL!
Tanjiro
THIS IS DAY FIVE! TOMORROW I'LL GIVE THE DOLL REAL WEAPONS!
GET IT TOGETH-ER!
YOU'D BE DEAD IF THE DOLL WASN'T USING PRACTICE SWORDS!

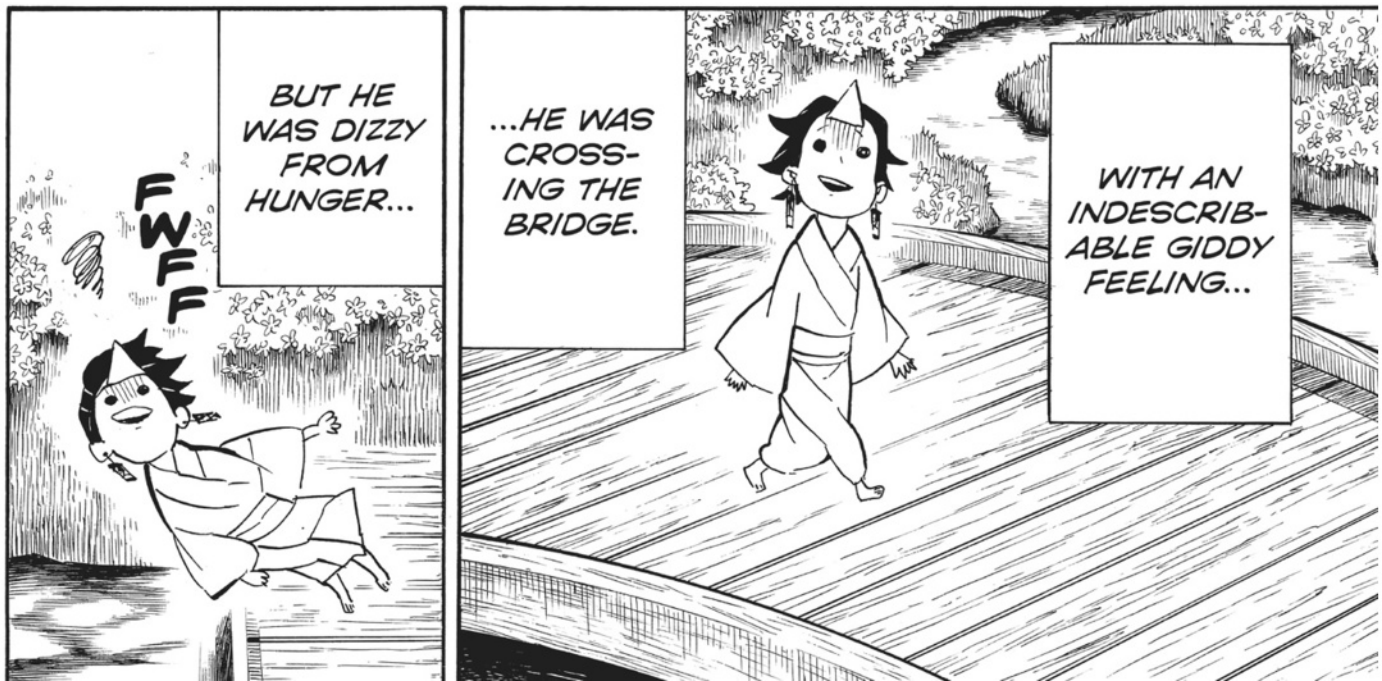
AAAAAGH!
KNCH
NO FOOD AGAIN TODAY!
I COULD REALLY DIE EVEN WITH THOSE PRACTICE SWORDS!
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
NO!

HE DIDN'T KNOW THE LIMITS OF THE HUMAN BODY, SO HIS STYLE OF TRAINING WAS TERRIBLY HARSH.
I'M GONNA DIE!
WAIT A SECOND!
C'MON!
STAND UP!
PLEASE, STAND UP!
C'MON, STAND UP!
KOTETSU HAD IMPRESSIVE POWERS OF ANALYSIS...
...BUT HE HAD NO SKILL IN TEACHING SWORDSMANSHIP.
HANG IN THERE! DON'T LOSE!
STAND UP!

Unclouded eyes.
THIS WAS TORTURE ...
...BORN OF IGNORANCE!
WITHOUT WATER HUMANS WILL DIE IN THREE DAYS.
IT WAS INHUMANE TO DENY TANJIRO FOOD AND WATER IF HE COULDN'T DO AS HE WAS TOLD.
GIVE ME WATER!
NO!
JUST WATER ...
NO!
WATER...
NO!
I'M GONNA DIE.
KOTETSU ...

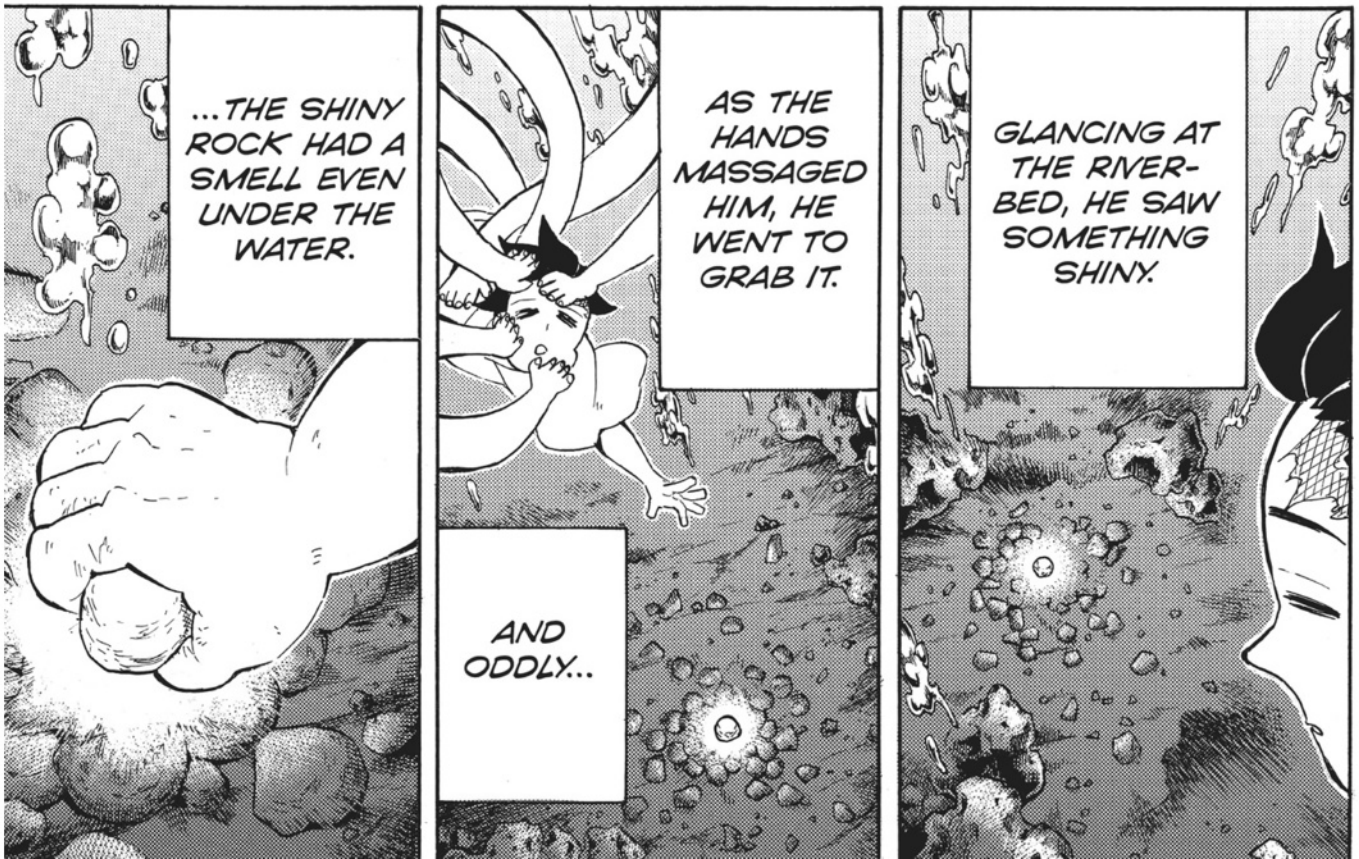

TANJIRO'S LIFE WAS SAVED BY THE FACT THAT IT STARTED RAINING.
GRAAH
BUT WITH THAT FEARSOME AMOUNT OF EXERCISE...
...VERY LITTLE WATER...
...AND NO FOOD ...
... OR SLEEP ...

...TANJIRO...
...BEGAN TO CROSS THE RIVER TO THE AFTERLIFE.


WITH AN INDESCRIBABLE GIDDY FEELING...
...HE WAS CROSSING THE BRIDGE.
BUT HE WAS DIZZY FROM HUNGER...
FWFF

SPLOOSH
...AND HE FELL INTO THE RIVER.

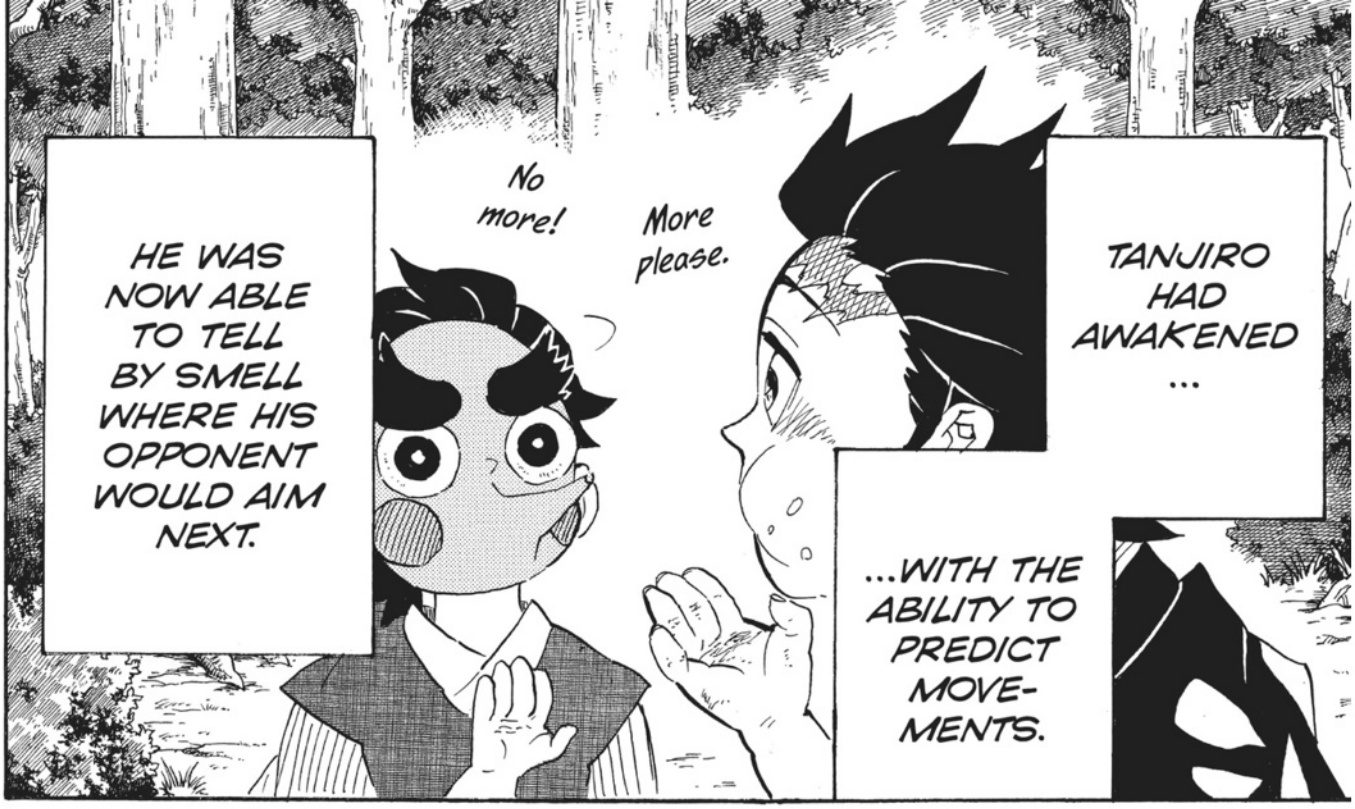
IT FELT LIKE PEOPLE WERE MASSAGING HIM.
RUB
PAT
PAT
THE RIVER WAS DARK AND HEAVY...
...AND WARM FOR SOME REASON.


...THE SHINY ROCK HAD A SMELL EVEN UNDER THE WATER.
AS THE HANDS MASSAGED HIM, HE WENT TO GRAB IT.
AND ODDLY...
GLANCING AT THE RIVER-BED, HE SAW SOMETHING SHINY.

WHAT IS THIS SMELL?!
IT'S DIFFERENT THAN THE OPENING THREAD SMELL!

MY NECK...
RIGHT CHEST...
THE LEFT SIDE OF MY TORSO...
MY RIGHT THIGH...
RIGHT SHOUL-DER...
HERE IT COMES!
THE LEFT SIDE OF MY HEAD...

Failed to break his fall.
OOF!
WHMP
HEY, TANJIRO! YOU GOT A HIT IN!
SURE IT WAS TOO WEAK AND DIDN'T EVEN FAZE THE DOLL...
...BUT YOU'VE EARNED SOME FOOD!
FIRST MEAL IN SEVEN DAYS
RICE TASTES SO GOOOOOD!
DEEELICIOUS!
AAAH!
HIGH-QUALITY REFINED GREEN TEA!
HZZ
HFF
RICE BALLS AND PICKLED PLUM!
TEA!
HZZ


TANJIRO HAD AWAKENED ...
...WITH THE ABILITY TO PREDICT MOVE-MENTS.
HE WAS NOW ABLE TO TELL BY SMELL WHERE HIS OPPONENT WOULD AIM NEXT.
No more!
More please.

THIS SMELL CAME TO HIM EARLIER THAN THE OPENING THREAD.
TANJIRO'S BODY WAS STILL IMMATURE AND HIS REFLEXES WERE SLOWER THAN A HASHIRA'S...
...BUT THIS POWERFUL WEAPON GAVE HIM MOVEMENT COMPARABLE TO A HASHIRA'S.
WHAM
WHAM
WHA
WHA

I KNOW MUCH MORE THAN BEFORE!
AND MY STRENGTH IS BACK SO I CAN KEEP UP!
ALL RIGHT! YES!
I KNOW YOUR MOVES!
I CAN LAND...
YES!
...A FULL-STRENGTH BLOW!
WHSH
SWSH
WHSH
...IF I BREAK IT...!
AGH! BUT...

I CAN FIX IT!
SWING! IT'S OKAY IF IT BREAKS!
...YOU'RE TOO KIND. YOU MUSTN'T HESITATE NOW.
TANJIRO...
AND...
...BECAUSE YOU'RE LIKE THAT...
...I DON'T WANT YOU TO DIE.

I WANT YOU TO GET STRONGER THAN ANYONE!
WHAM

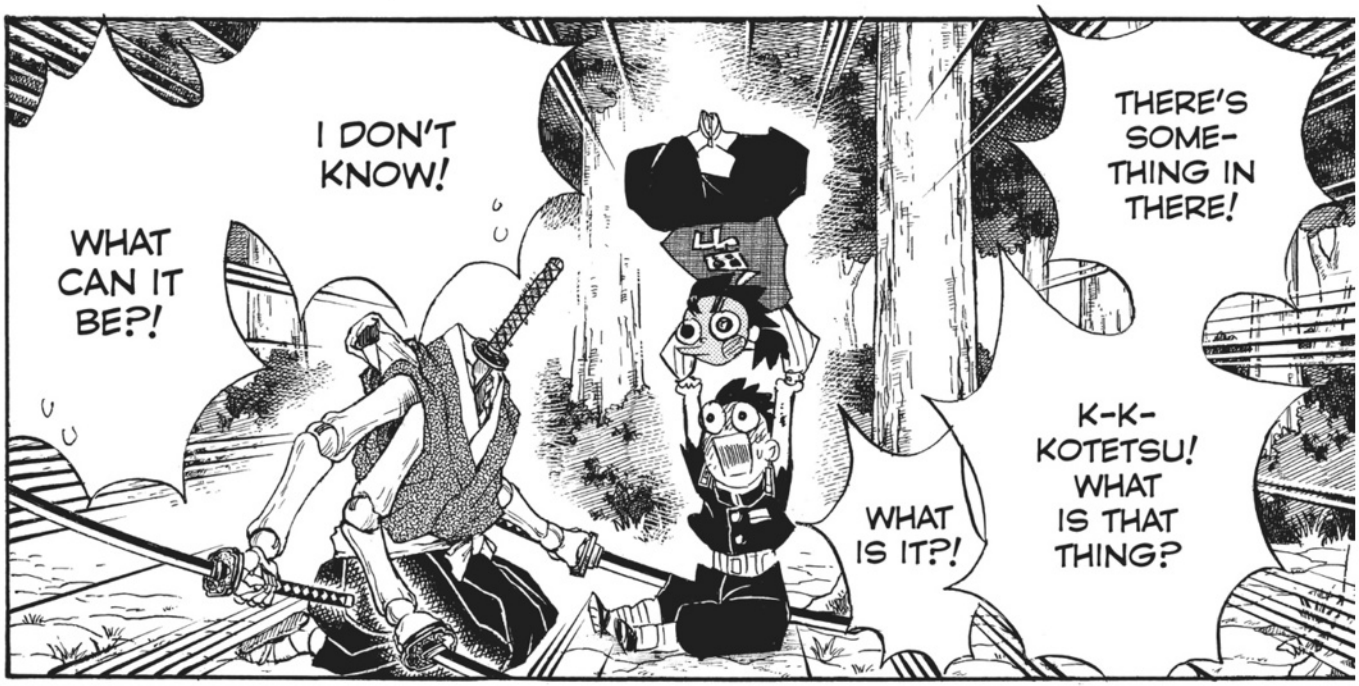
OW!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
PANG
OW...
ZING
THE SWORD I BORROWED BROKE! SORRY!
OH, THAT'S ALL RIGHT!
HUH ?!
?!

KR
MBLE

From *Shonen Jump GIGA*, Winter Vol. 2, 2018

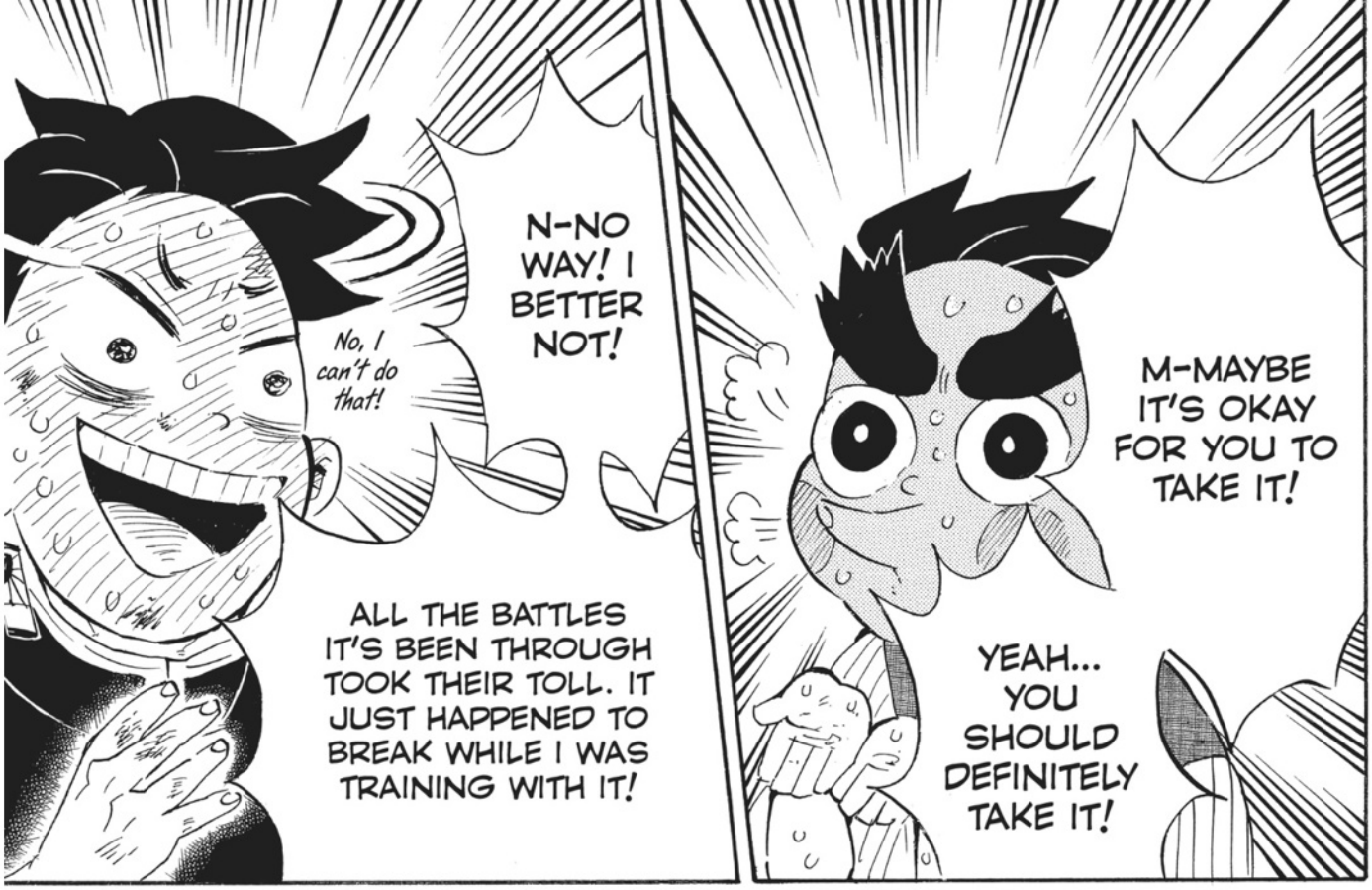
From *Weekly Shonen Jump*, combined issue No. 21-22, 2018

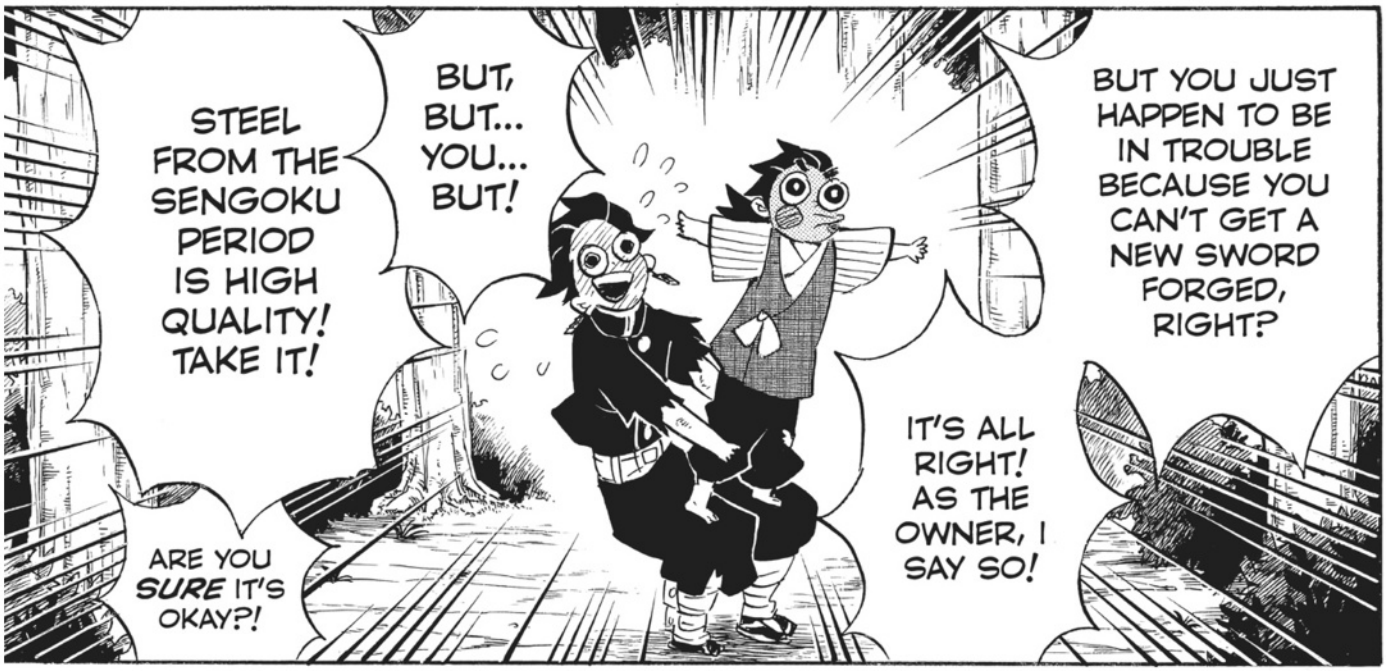
CHAPTER 105: SOMETHING CAME OUT


I DON'T KNOW!
WHAT CAN IT BE?!
THERE'S SOME-THING IN THERE!
K-K-KOTETSU! WHAT IS THAT THING?
WHAT IS IT?!

HFF
HFF
HFF
HFF
HFF
HFF
I CAN'T STOP FREAKING OUT!
ME TOO!

YEAH! THIS IS MESSED UP! WHAT SHOULD WE DO?!
IT LOOKS LIKE A KATANA BUT IT MUST BE OVER 300 YEARS OLD!

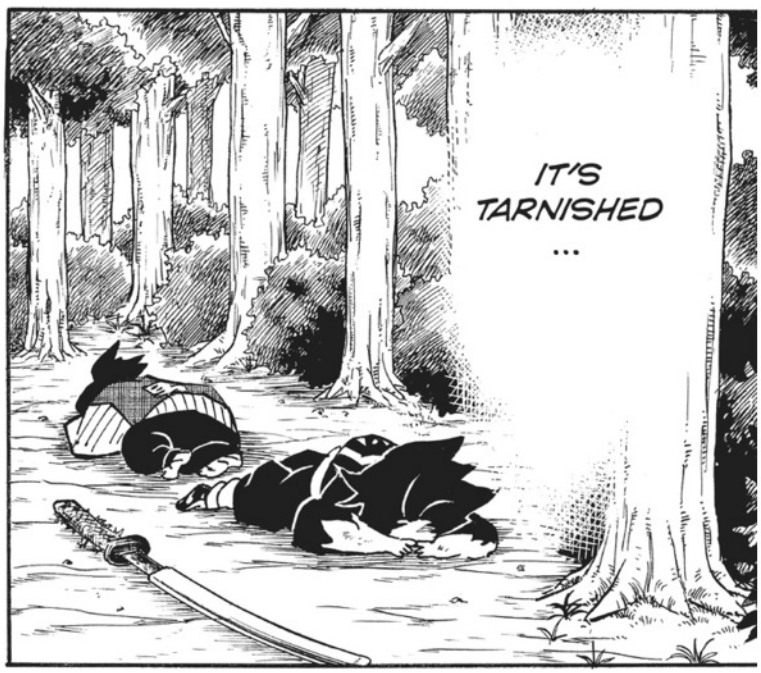

N-NO WAY! I BETTER NOT!
No, I can't do that!
ALL THE BATTLES IT'S BEEN THROUGH TOOK THEIR TOLL. IT JUST HAPPENED TO BREAK WHILE I WAS TRAINING WITH IT!
M-MAYBE IT'S OKAY FOR YOU TO TAKE IT!
YEAH... YOU SHOULD DEFINITELY TAKE IT!

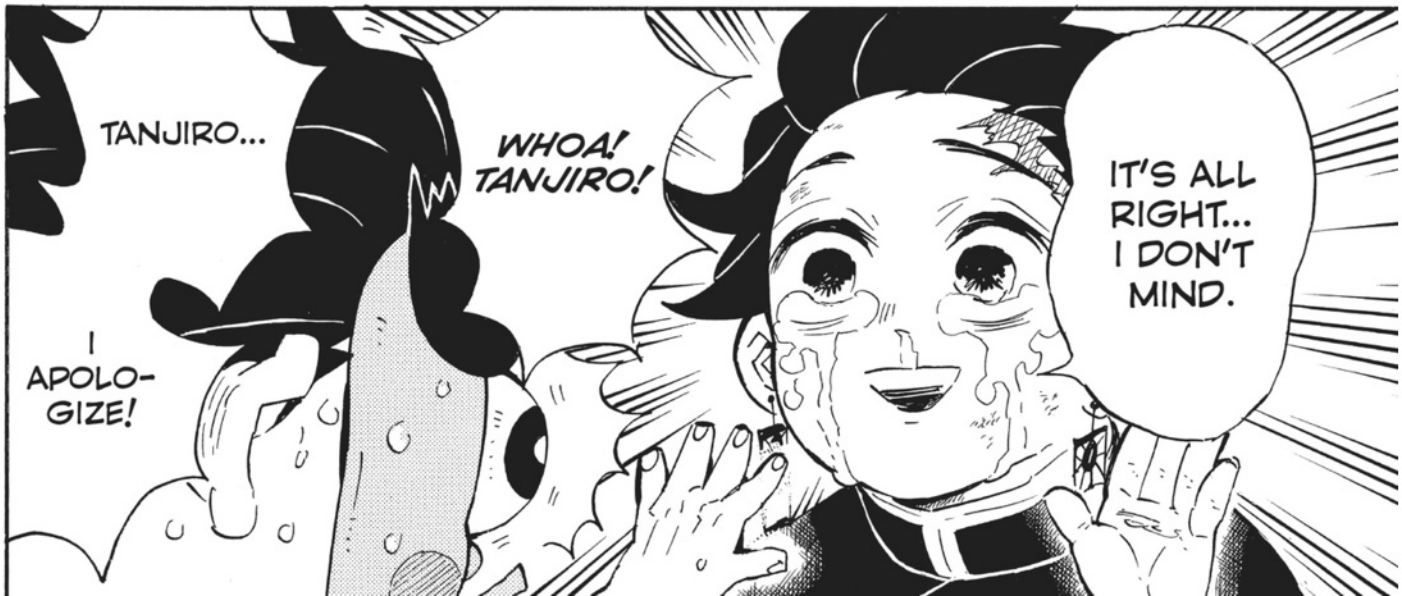

STEEL FROM THE SENGOKU PERIOD IS HIGH QUALITY! TAKE IT!
BUT, BUT... YOU... BUT!
BUT YOU JUST HAPPEN TO BE IN TROUBLE BECAUSE YOU CAN'T GET A NEW SWORD FORGED, RIGHT?
ARE YOU SURE IT'S OKAY?!
IT'S ALL RIGHT! AS THE OWNER, I SAY SO!

KNCH
WOO-HOO
B-DMP
B-DMP
WANNA TRY PULLING IT OUT?
YEAH, I WANNA SEE IT!

SHH
HK

SORRY TO DASH YOUR HOPES...
OF COURSE! IT'S BEEN THREE CENTURIES SINCE ANY-ONE CARED FOR IT.


IT'S TARNISHED ...


TANJIRO...
I APOLO-GIZE!
WHOA! TANJIRO!
IT'S ALL RIGHT... I DON'T MIND.

SLOMP
?!
SLOMP
WHAT THE—?
LOMA

WAAAAH!
WHO IS THAT?
HAGANE-ZUKA?!

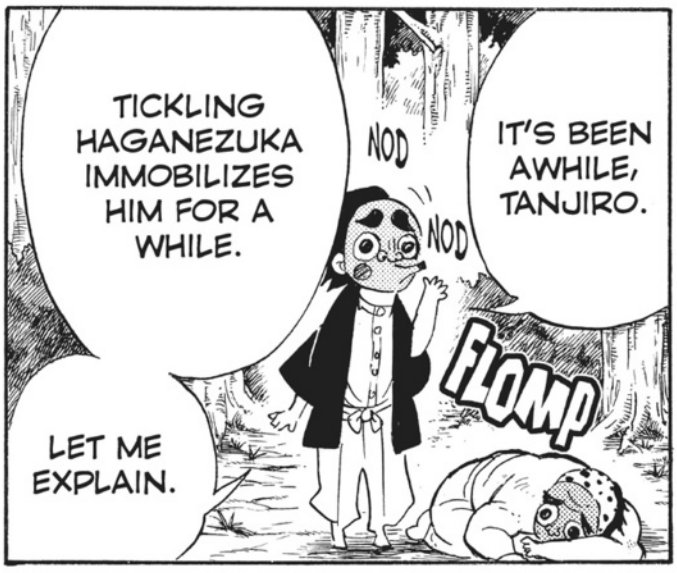
GWOOO
I HEARD EVERY-THING.
LEAVE IT TO ME!
LEAVE *WHAT* TO YOU?!

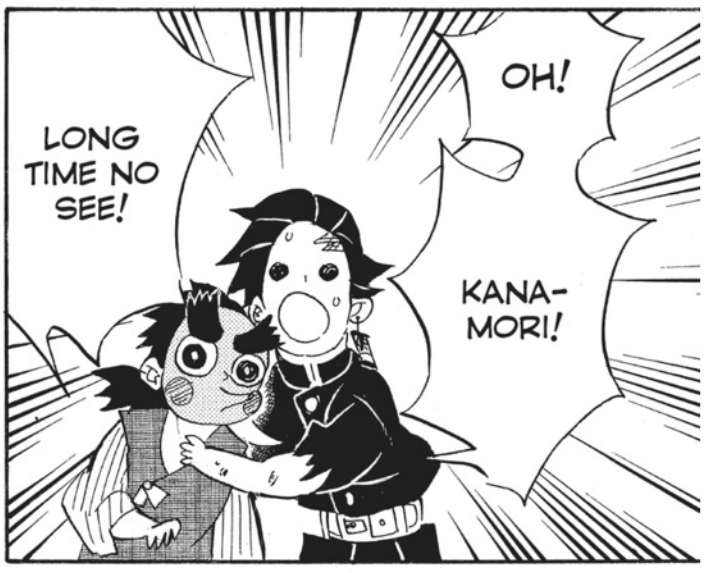
HE LOOKED STRONGER THAN TANJIRO AFTER TRAINING...
HAGANEZUKA SUDDENLY APPEARED, BULGING WITH MUSCLES.
...AND TRIED TO TAKE THE SWORD, SO THE THREE QUARRELED.

EXPLAIN YOURSELF, HAGANEZUKA!
NO! THIS IS KOTETSU'S!
LEAVE IT... TO ME...
HEY! LET GO OF THAT! WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO TAKE IT AWAY?!
LEAVE IT TO ME!
NO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
LEAVE IT TO ME!
UMPH
UMPH
UMPH

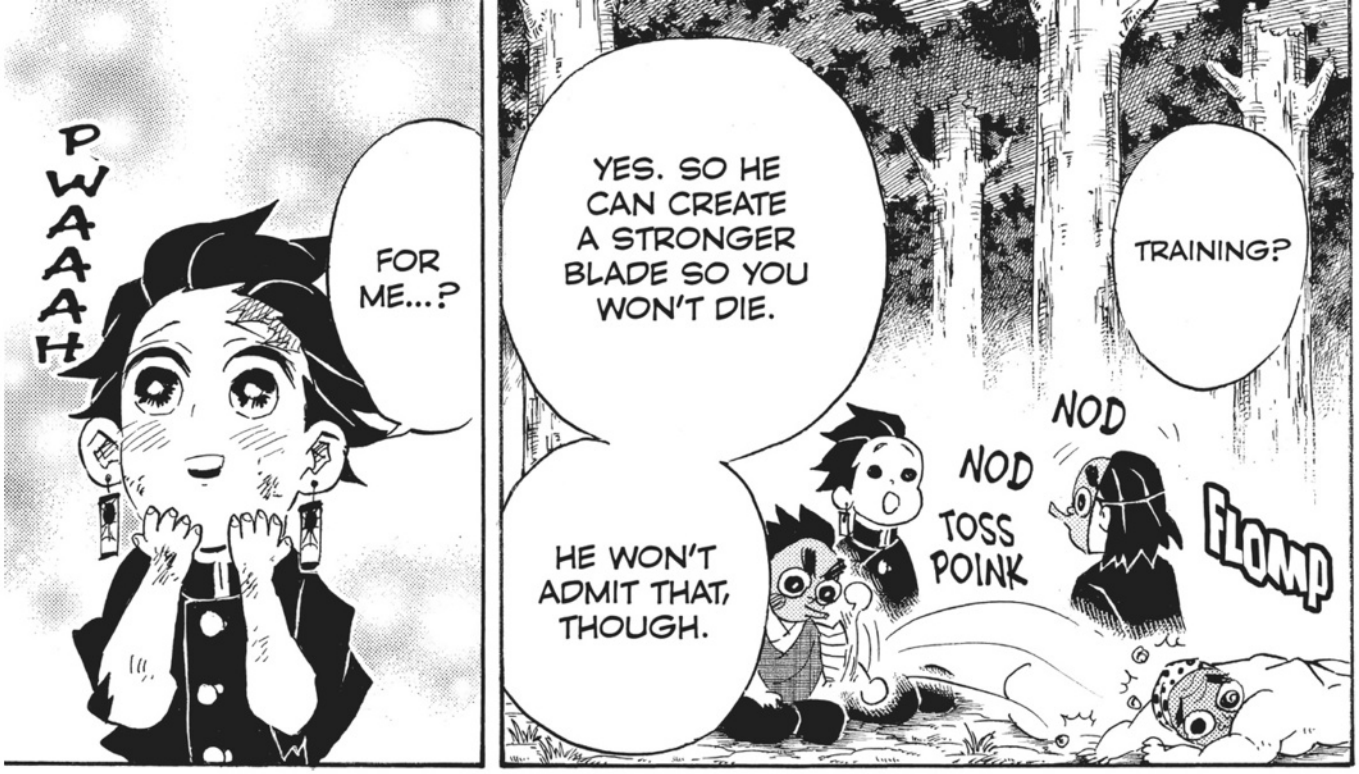
WOOSH
I SAID LEAVE IT TO ME!
WAAAH! A GROWN-UP SHOULDN'T ACT LIKE THAT!

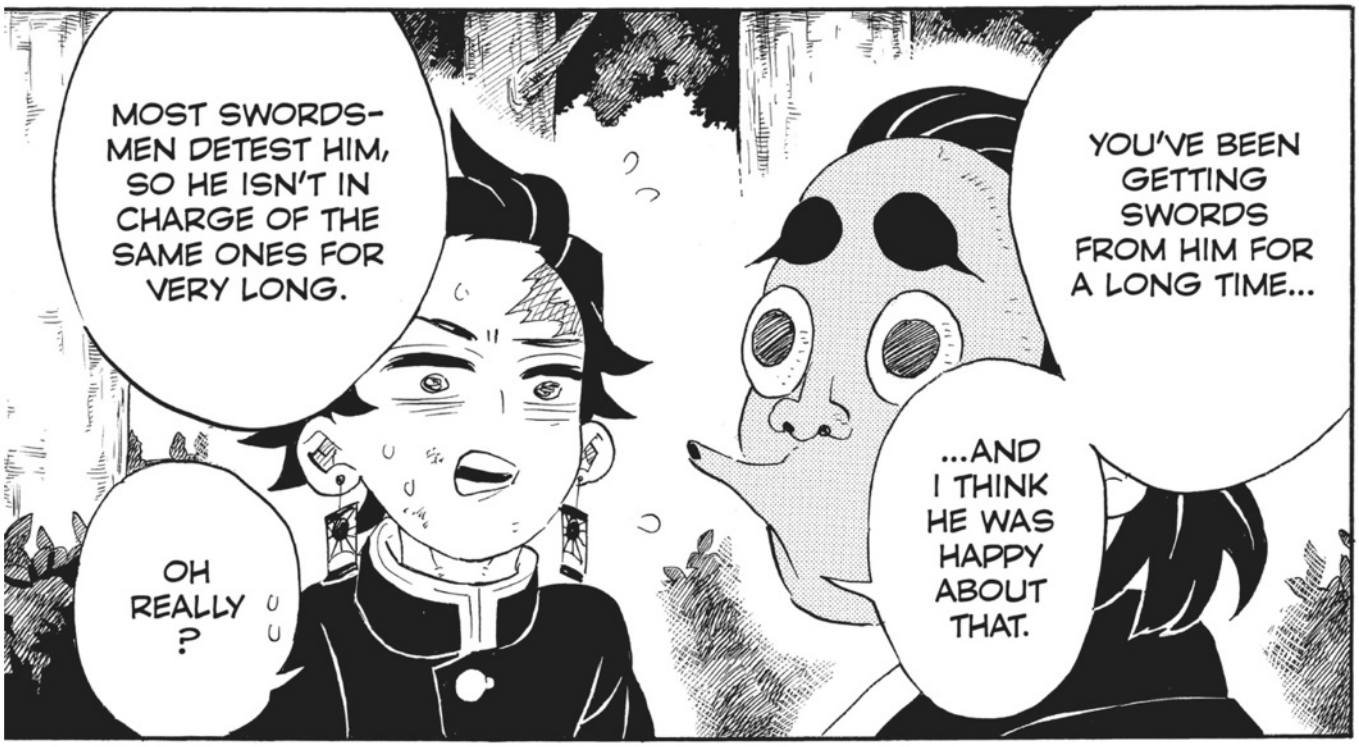
HYA HA HA HA HA!
TICKLE
TICKLE
BOYS! HAGANEZUKA'S WEAK SPOT IS HIS SIDES!
RIGHT HERE!


TICKLING HAGANEZUKA IMMOBILIZES HIM FOR A WHILE.
NOD
NOD
IT'S BEEN AWHILE, TANJIRO.
FLOMP
LET ME EXPLAIN.


OH!
LONG TIME NO SEE!
KANA-MORI!

HE WAS SECLUDED IN THE MOUNTAINS FOR TRAINING.
NOD
NOD
PLEASE, FORGIVE HAGANEZUKA.

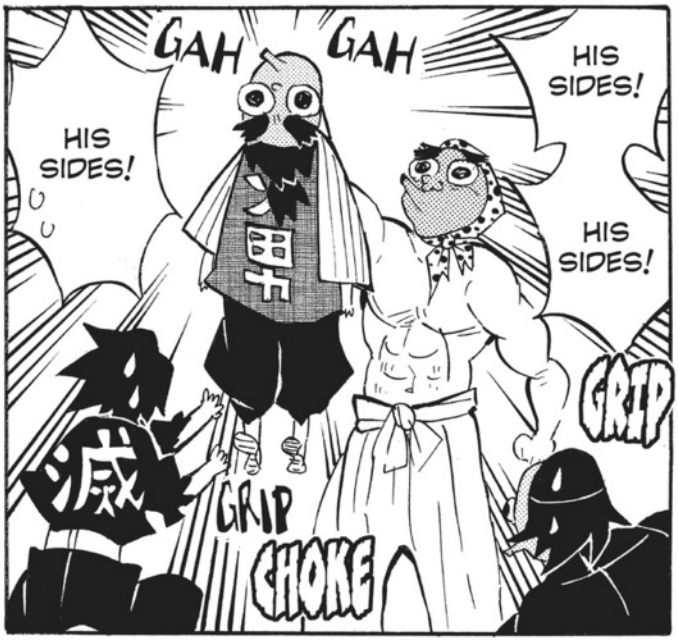

PWAAAH
FOR ME...?
YES. SO HE CAN CREATE A STRONGER BLADE SO YOU WON'T DIE.
HE WON'T ADMIT THAT, THOUGH.
TRAINING?
NOD
NOD
TOSS
POINK
FLOMP


MOST SWORDSMEN DETEST HIM, SO HE ISN'T IN CHARGE OF THE SAME ONES FOR VERY LONG.
OH REALLY ?
YOU'VE BEEN GETTING SWORDS FROM HIM FOR A LONG TIME...
...AND I THINK HE WAS HAPPY ABOUT THAT.

BOING
OH...
...HE'S BACK.
滅

THAT'S WHY HE NEVER GOT MARRIED.
BLUNT
HIS INTERPERSONAL SKILLS SUCK!

I WILL TAKE THIS TARNISHED KATANA...
...AND POLISH IT USING THE NICHIRIN SWORD POLISHING ART OF THE HAGANEZUKA FAMILY.


GAH
GAH
HIS SIDES!
HIS SIDES!
HIS SIDES!
GRIP
GRIP
CHOKE

YOU SHOULD HAVE SAID SO FROM THE START!
SIGH
WE DIDN'T TRUST YOU AND ALL YOU'D SAY WAS, "LEAVE IT TO ME!"
LIKE SOME IDIOT WHO CAN ONLY SAY ONE THING!

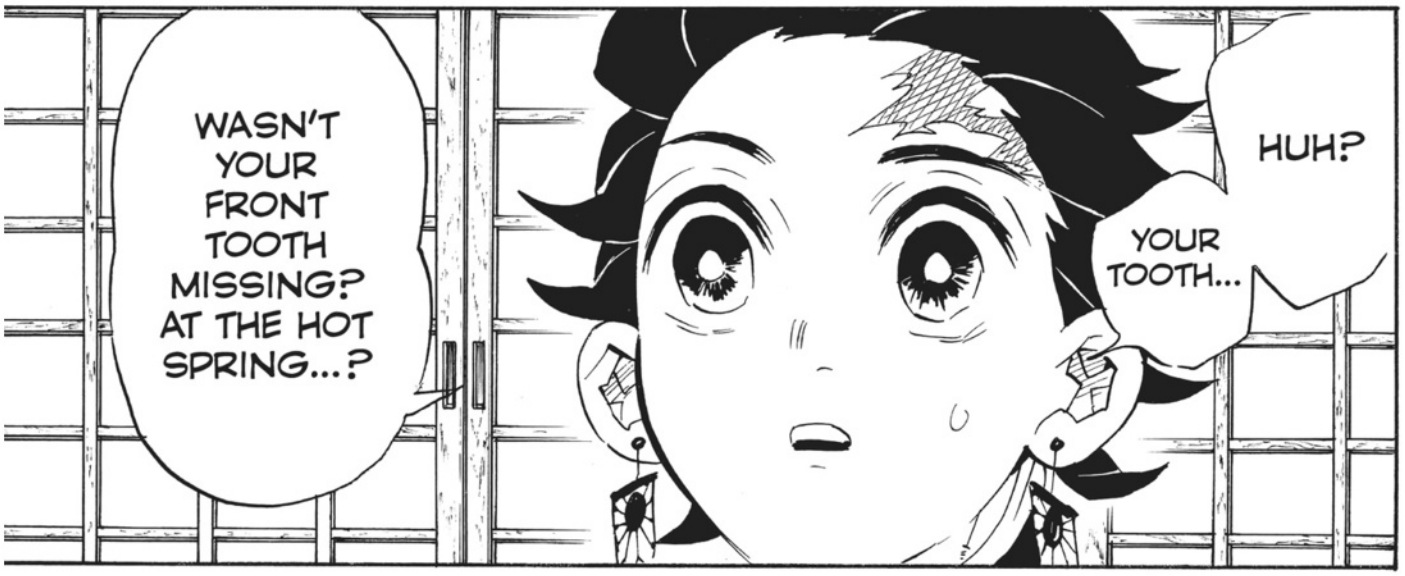
APPARENTLY, IT WILL TAKE THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS FOR HAGANEZUKA TO POLISH THAT SWORD.
THAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY.

HE SAID THAT THE SHARPENING METHOD IS SO INCREDIBLY DEMANDING THAT IT'S KILLED PEOPLE.
I'M WORRIED.
HE'LL FINISH IT THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.

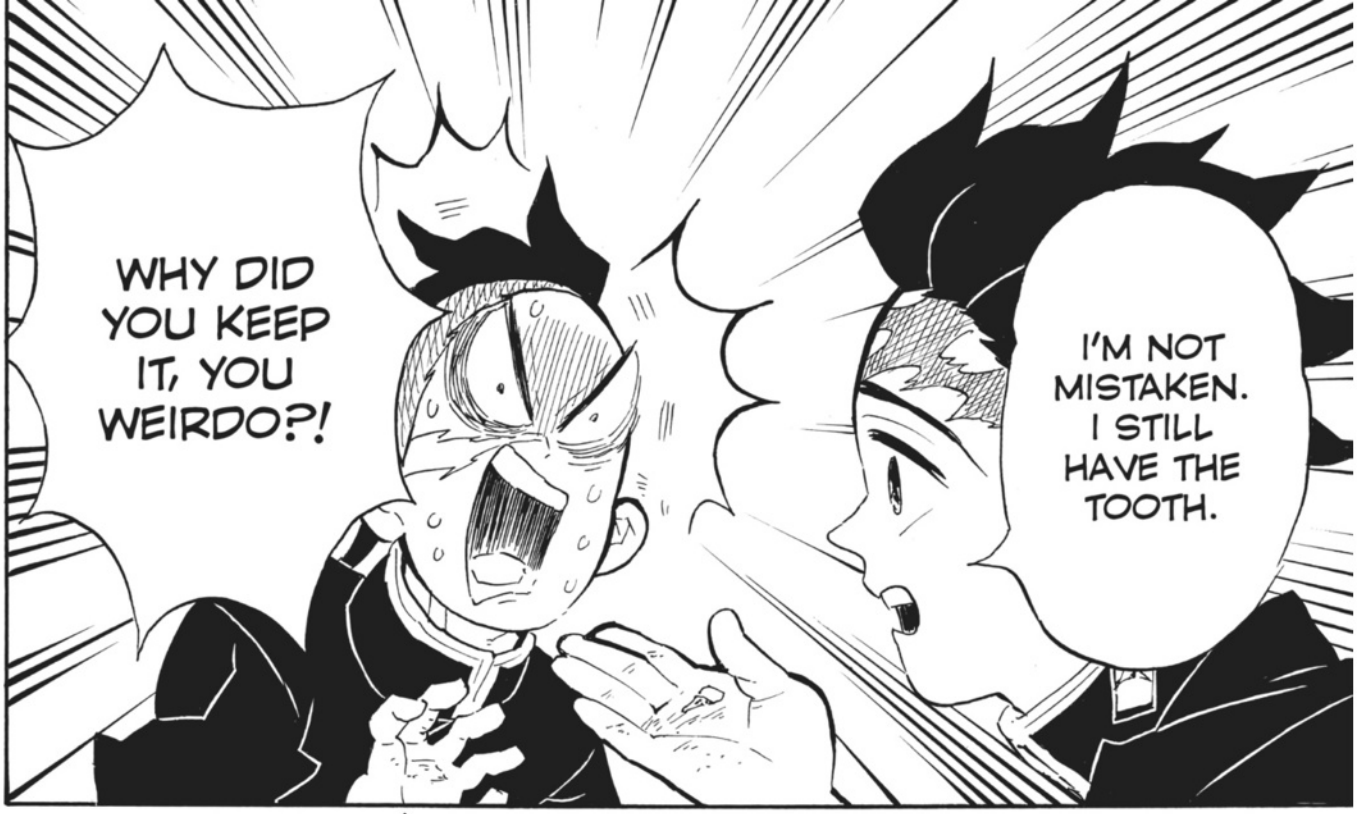
...BUT MAY I GO SEE?
HE FORBADE ME FROM PEEKING IN...

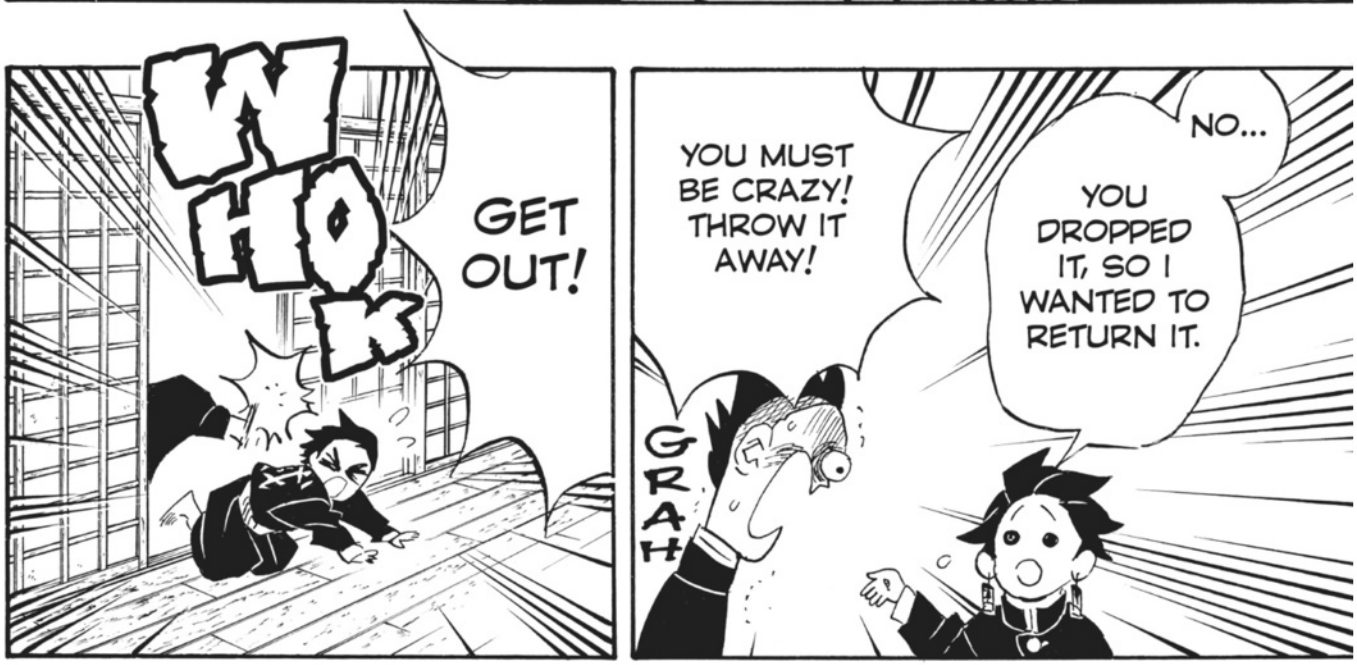
DON'T TALK TO ME LIKE I'M YOUR FRIEND!
WHAT'S IT TO ME?!
GET OUT!
YOU BROKE MY ARM!
DON'T TELL ME YOU FORGOT!
OF COURSE NOT!
HUH? WE AREN'T FRIENDS?
DON'T CALL ME BY MY FIRST NAME!
THAT WAS NECESSARY. YOU WERE COMPLETELY IN THE WRONG FOR HITTING A GIRL, GENYA.

NO! GET LOST!
GRAH!
SMASH
THESE RICE CRACKERS ARE TASTY. WANT ONE?

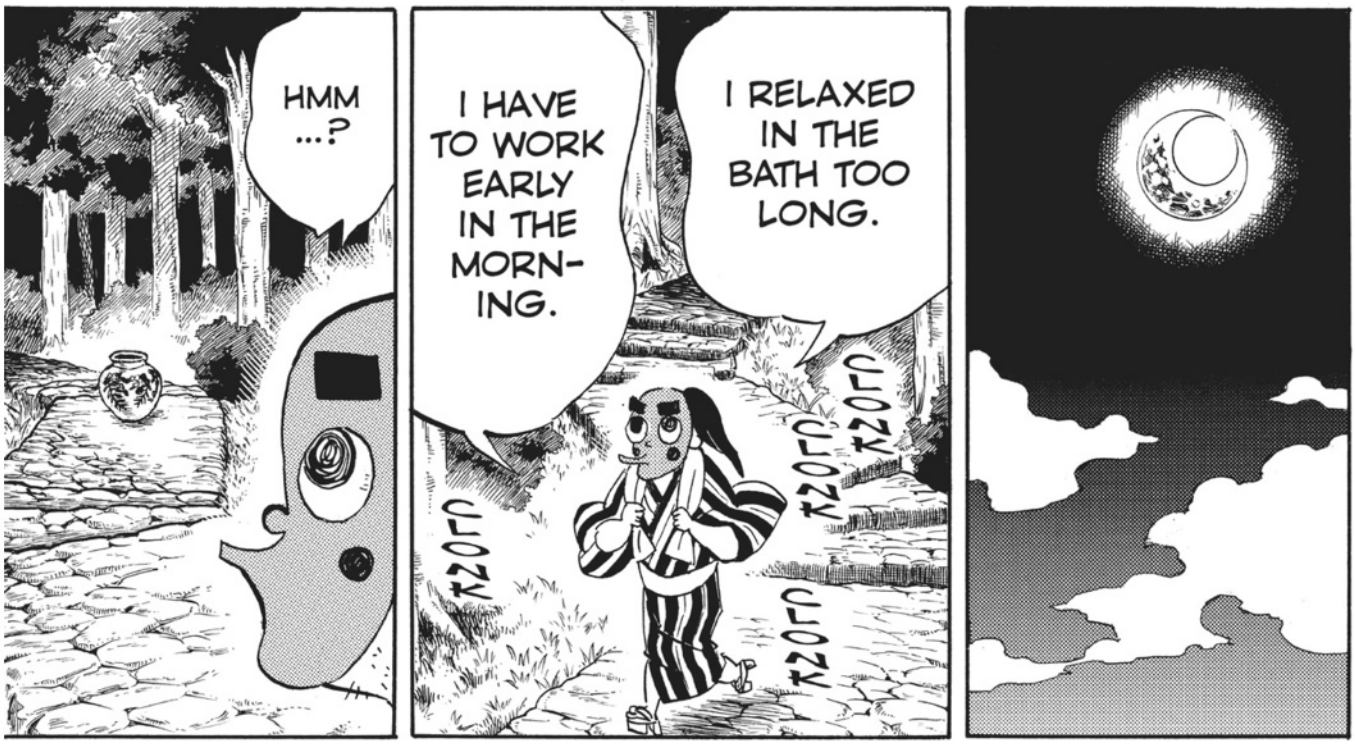

WASN'T YOUR FRONT TOOTH MISSING? AT THE HOT SPRING...?
HUH?
YOUR TOOTH...

YOU MUST BE MISTAKEN.
WHP
...


WHY DID YOU KEEP IT, YOU WEIRDO?!
I'M NOT MISTAKEN. I STILL HAVE THE TOOTH.


WHOK
GET OUT!
YOU MUST BE CRAZY! THROW IT AWAY!
NO... YOU DROPPED IT, SO I WANTED TO RETURN IT.
GRAH

HE MUST BE HUNGRY?
WHY IS HE ALWAYS SO ANGRY?


HMM ...?
I HAVE TO WORK EARLY IN THE MORN-ING.
I RELAXED IN THE BATH TOO LONG.
CLOCK
CLOCK
CLOCK

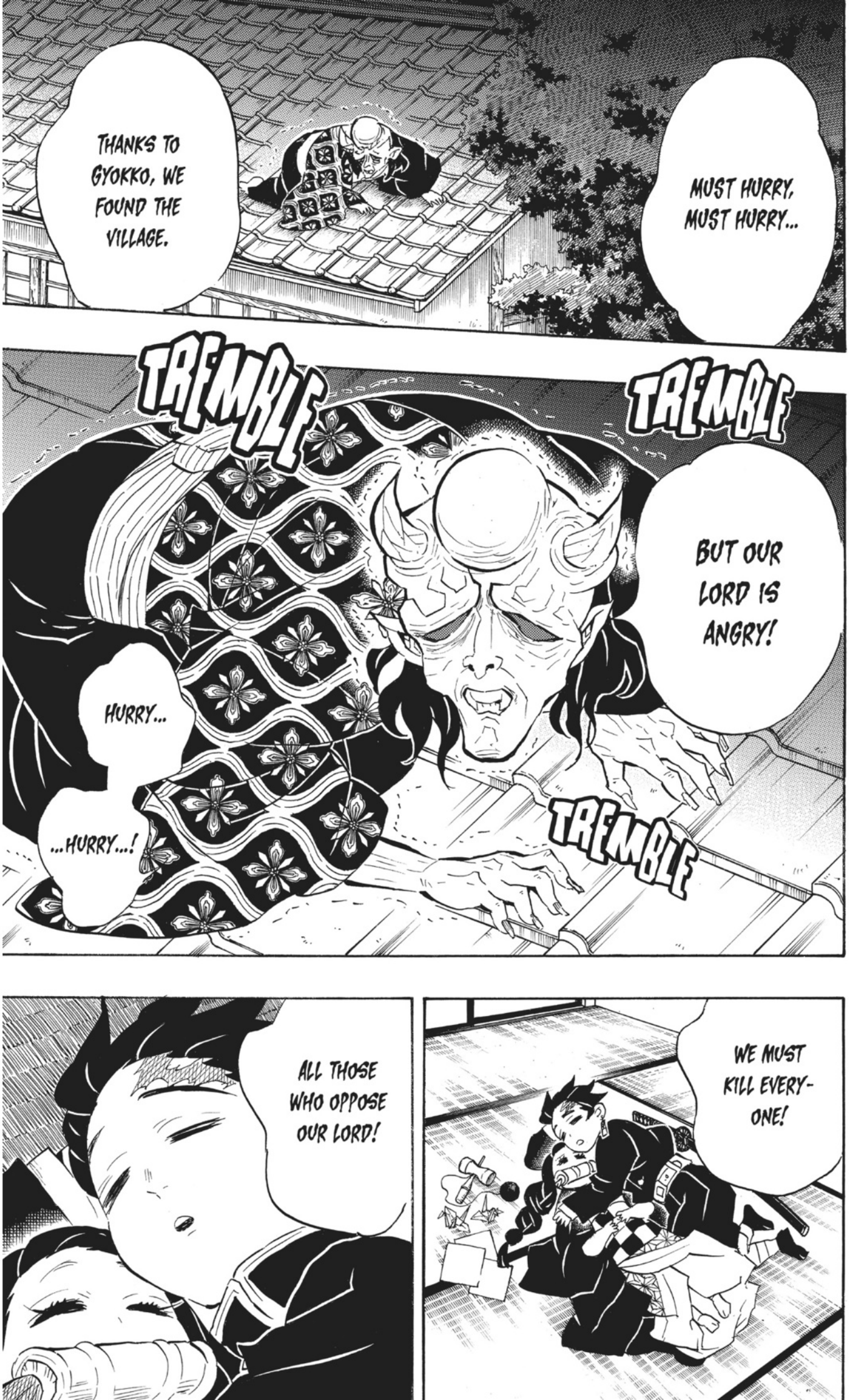
A VASE?

WHO PUT A VASE OUT HERE?
IT COULD GET BROKEN.

SLORP
KRUNCH
SNAP

WOBBLE
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
KRAK
KRUNCH
WOOSH
KLUNK
TWITCH
TWITCH
KLOR

SQUIRM
THAT TASTED TERRIBLE!
I KNEW IT! THE FLESH OF MOUNTAIN SWORDSMITHS...
WIGGLE
...ISN'T FIT TO EAT!
TWIST
WRITHE
BUT THAT'S ALL RIGHT...
AS LONG AS WE CRUSH THIS PLACE...
HEE!
...IT IS SURE TO WEAKEN THE DEMON SLAYERS!

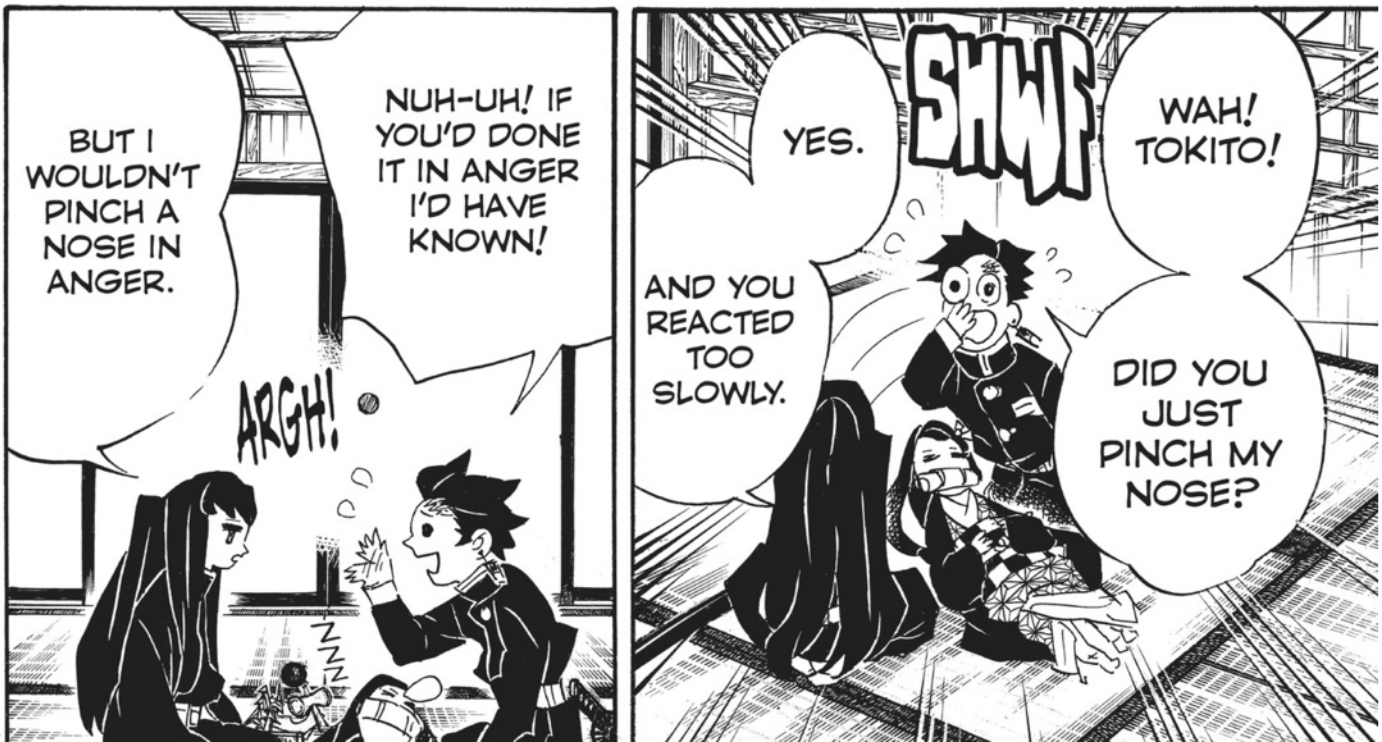

THANKS TO GYOKKO, WE FOUND THE VILLAGE.
MUST HURRY, MUST HURRY...
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
BUT OUR LORD IS ANGRY!
HURRY...
...HURRY...!
TREMBLE
ALL THOSE WHO OPPOSE OUR LORD!
WE MUST KILL EVERY-ONE!

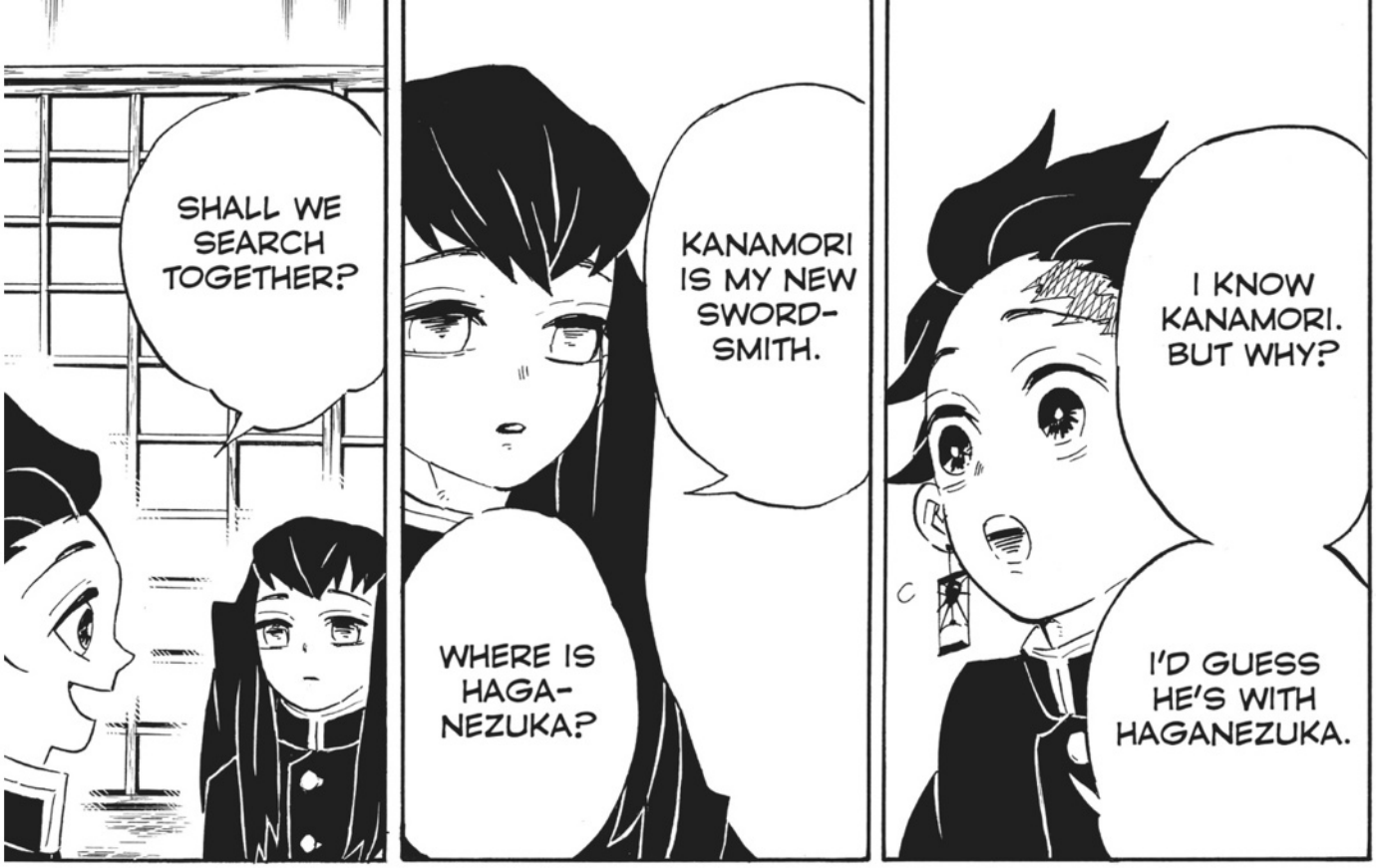
Nezuko was in a good mood when she had Tanjiro braid her hair like Mitsuri's.
Like this... this...
...and then like this...
TWIST
TWIST

CHAPTER 106:
ENEMY ATTACK

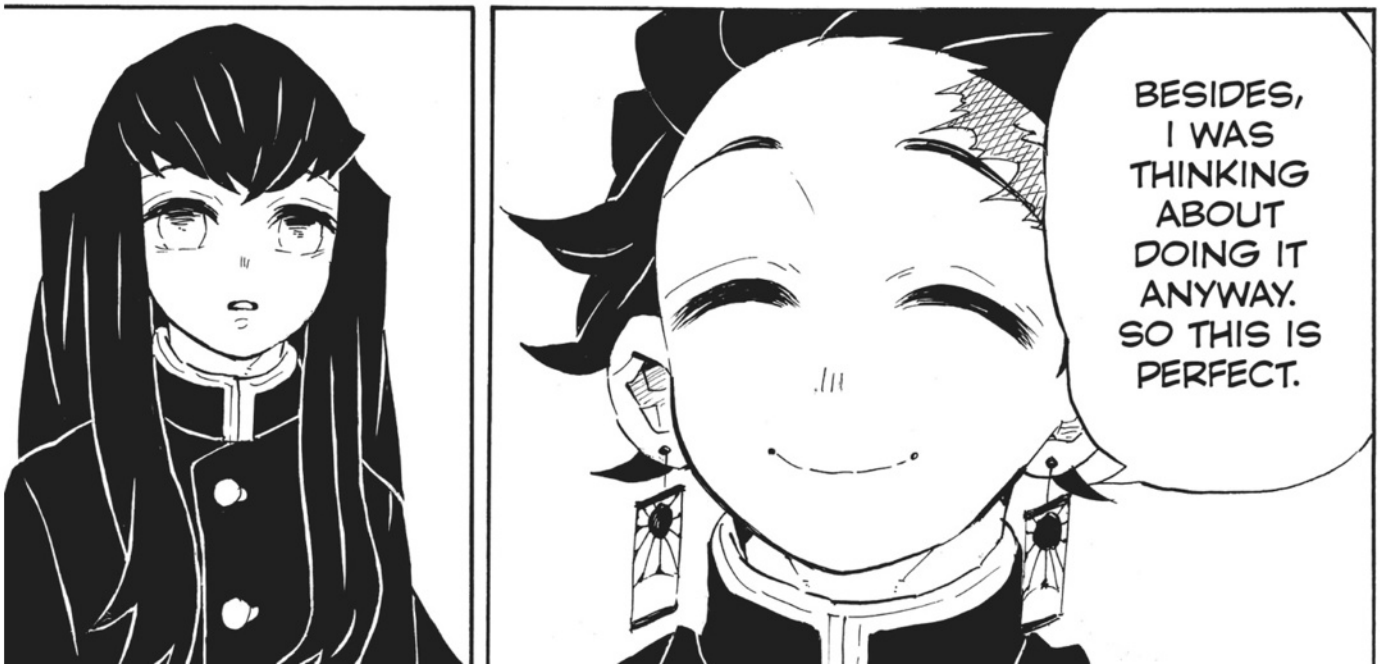
SNORK!
PINCH

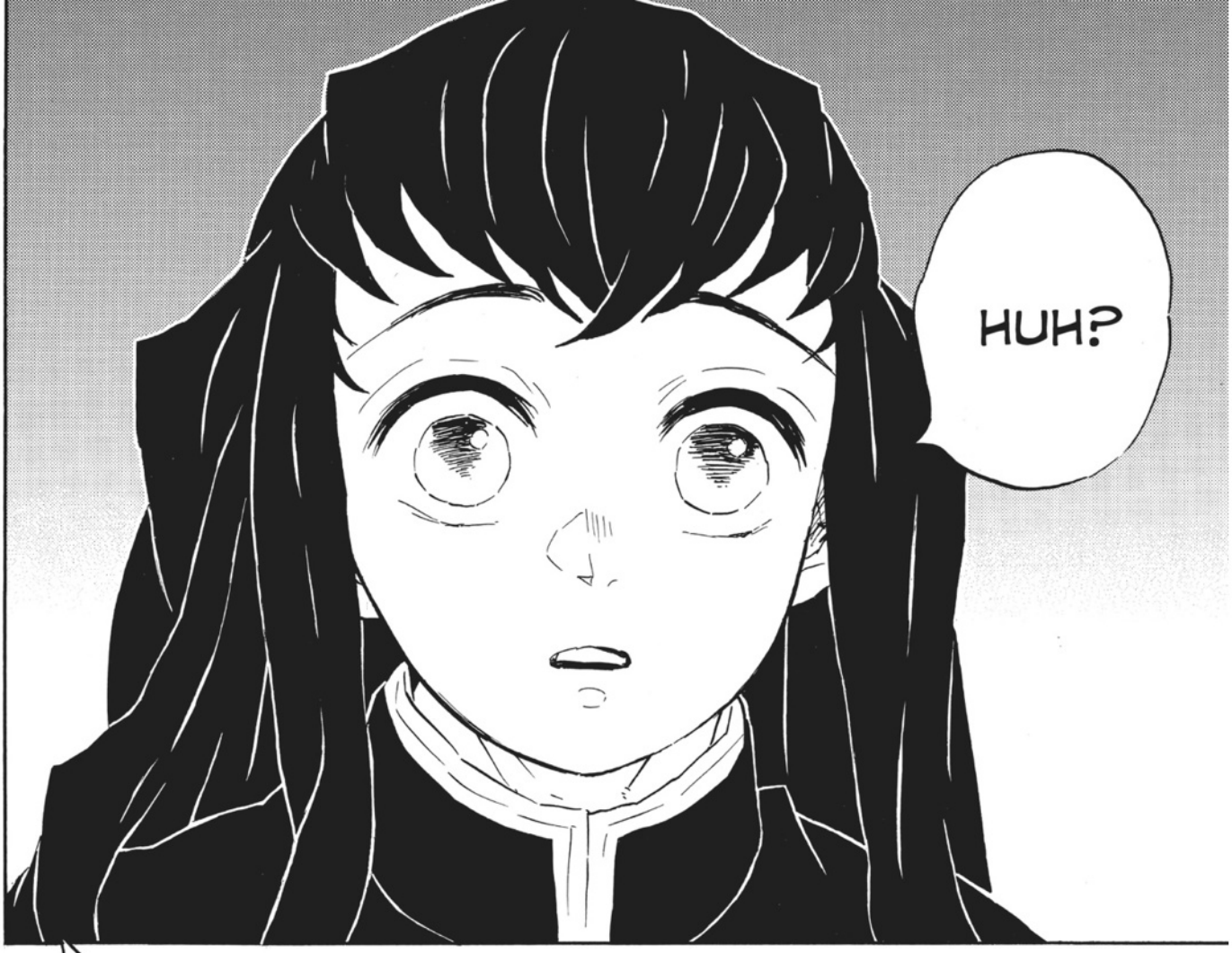
DO YOU KNOW A SWORD-SMITH NAMED KANAMORI?


BUT I WOULDN'T PINCH A NOSE IN ANGER.
NUH-UH! IF YOU'D DONE IT IN ANGER I'D HAVE KNOWN!
ARGH!
ZZZZ
YES.
SHWIP
WAH! TOKITO!
AND YOU REACTED TOO SLOWLY.
DID YOU JUST PINCH MY NOSE?


I KNOW KANAMORI. BUT WHY?
I'D GUESS HE'S WITH HAGANEZUKA.
KANAMORI IS MY NEW SWORD-SMITH.
WHERE IS HAGA-NEZUKA?
SHALL WE SEARCH TOGETHER?

...
WHY ARE YOU SO HELPFUL?
DON'T YOU HAVE YOUR OWN CON-CERNS?
HELPING OTHERS...
...OFTEN ENDS UP HELPING YOURSELF.


BESIDES, I WAS THINKING ABOUT DOING IT ANYWAY. SO THIS IS PERFECT.


HUH?

OUCH!
BONK
HUH?
I SAID IT'S PERFECT!

NOW...
JUST NOW...
WHAT?
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?

LET'S GO FIND HAGANE-ZUKA TOGETHER.
...

...

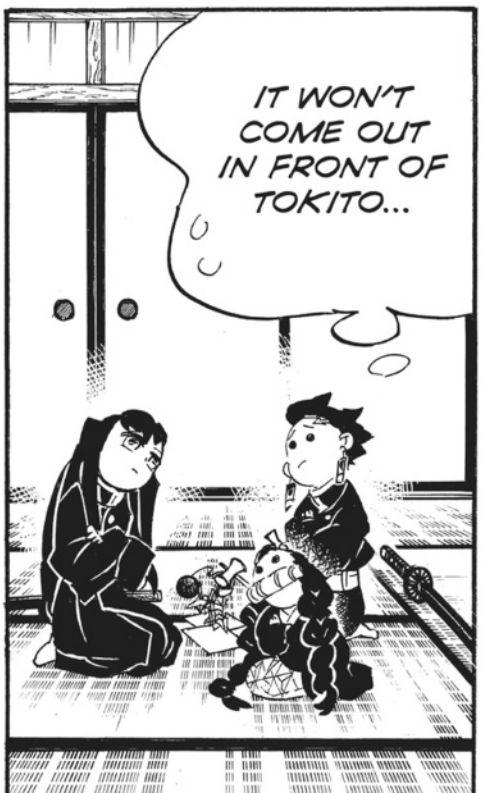
NEZUKO! YOU'RE UP!
GRRR
WAAH!
Ow...

YES. VERY STRANGE. WHAT IS IT? I CAN'T FIND THE WORDS.
HUH?
STRANGE?
THAT GIRL IS A STRANGE CREATURE.
GRRR

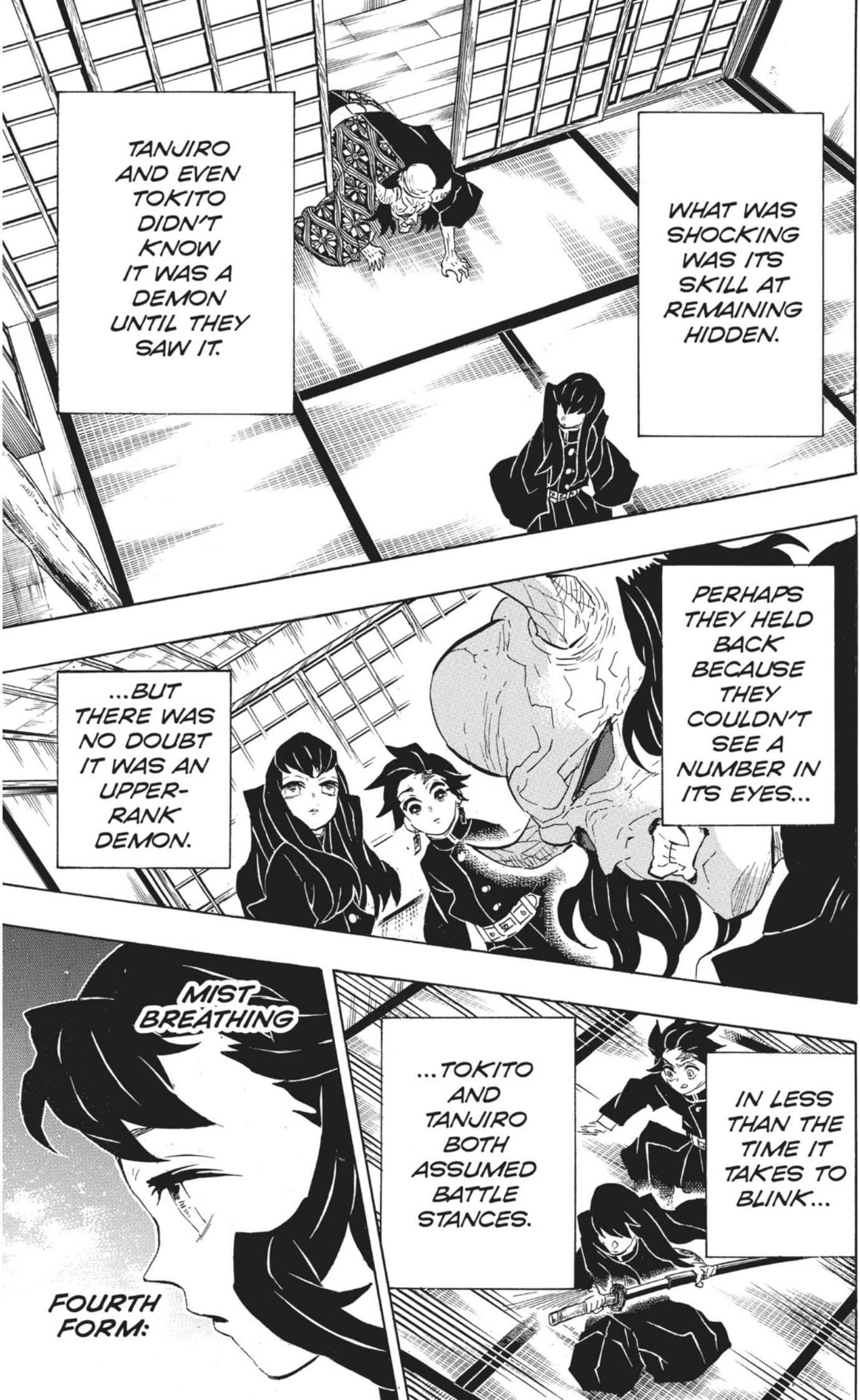
Umm...
HAS TAMAYO'S CAT COME BACK?
ACK!
UH-OH!
SHE WAS RESEARCHING THE CHANGE IN NEZUKO'S BLOOD AGAIN.

AND IT WAS THAT WAY THEN TOO.
I'VE MET THAT GIRL BEFORE.
WHAT IS IT EXACTLY ...?

YES.
HMM? IS SOMEONE HERE?


IT WON'T COME OUT IN FRONT OF TOKITO...

NO
AIEEEE


TANJIRO AND EVEN TOKITO DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS A DEMON UNTIL THEY SAW IT.
WHAT WAS SHOCKING WAS ITS SKILL AT REMAINING HIDDEN.
...BUT THERE WAS NO DOUBT IT WAS AN UPPER-RANK DEMON.
PERHAPS THEY HELD BACK BECAUSE THEY COULDN'T SEE A NUMBER IN ITS EYES...
MIST BREATHING
FOURTH FORM:
...TOKITO AND TANJIRO BOTH ASSUMED BATTLE STANCES.
IN LESS THAN THE TIME IT TAKES TO BLINK...

SHIFTING FLOW SLASH
AIEEEEEE!
HUP
HUP
IT'S FAST!
I DIDN'T KILL IT!

IT HURRRTS ...!
SHARK
TREMBLE
STOP! DON'T BE SO MEAN TO ME!
SHAKE
TREMBLE
TANJIRO HAD A KATANA THAT HAGANEZUKA FORGED...
...AND HIS STRENGTH WAS RECOVERED, SO HE WAS READY TO GO IMMEDIATELY WHEN NEEDED.
IT'S A DEMON THAT'S KILLED MANY PEOPLE!
OTHER-WISE IT COULDN'T DODGE A HASHIRA'S ATTACK!
I CAN'T HESITATE!
HINOKAMI KAGURA

SUNFLOWER THRUST!
風
THUD
AAWWWW...
DID I HIT IT?
WHY DOESN'T IT STRIKE BACK?!

NEZUKO! DON'T TAKE THAT FORM!
GYAHAH!
RAM

HE...
HE CUT OFF HIS HEAD! THAT WAS FAST! BUT...
YOU CUT ME!
AIEEEE!

THERE ARE CASES WHERE AN UPPER RANK DOESN'T DIE EVEN IF ITS HEAD IS CUT OFF.
IT'S A SPECIAL CONDITION, LIKE WITH GYUTARO AND DAKI.
TOKITO! DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN!
PIONK
!

IT SPLIT!
ONE GREW A HEAD AND THE OTHER GREW A BODY!
I'LL TAKE THE ONE IN THE BACK!

FLASH
HAHAHA

TOKITO!
NEZUKO!
KRK
KRK
HA
HA
HA!

THIS IS FUN! THEY REALLY WENT FLYING...
...DIDN'T THEY, SEKIDO?

ANGRY ABOUT BEING MIXED IN WITH YOU TOO, KARAKU!
THERE'S NOTHING FUN ABOUT IT. I AM JUST ANGRY.
OH? THEN IT'S GOOD WE'VE BEEN SEPARATED.
DO WE HAVE TO CUT OFF THEIR HEADS AT THE SAME TIME AGAIN?!
ハッ

VOLUME 12—THE UPPER RANKS GATHER (THE END)